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A Weekly Journal of the Chemical and Drug Trades
and of
British Pharmacists throughout the Empire.
ESTABLISHED 1859.

The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is in circulation and reputation the leading journal addressing the chemical and drug trades in the British Empire and other countries in the Old and New Worlds. It is the official journal of nineteen Chemists' Societies in Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, and the West Indies.

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New Companies.	Wills.
Personalities.	

REGARDING THAT BOOM

in Overseas trade about which we have heard so much during the past year. Have you had your full share of the enormous increase in exports? If not, the opportunity is still before you, and the man who can make it easy for you is the Export Merchant Shipper. He takes all the trouble off your shoulders, so it is worth while to cultivate him. This you can do by giving full particulars of your goods and your brands in a prominent advertisement in

THE EXPORT MERCHANT SHIPPERS' ISSUE

of

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST,

March 8, 1913.

SUMMARY.

Being a first glance at the articles and events reported in this Issue.

Articles and Communications.

Some notes on the early history of coca are given by "Xrayser II." (p. 49).

Views on advertising were expressed by Mr. E. Street and Mr. J. C. Umney at a meeting of the Royal Society of Arts (p. 58).

The report on the Students' Corner Competition given on p. 34 includes explanations of difficulties which beset the competitors.

Dr. Rodney H. True has made an interesting report on cascara sagrada to the U.S. Bureau of Plant Industry. We give some notes on this on p. 51.

The Western Pharmacists' Association on Wednesday night listened to a lecture by Mr. Angus Macnab, F.R.C.S., on advances in eye-surgery (p. 58).

We reprint an interesting communication by Barnard S. Proctor to our pages of fifty years ago. It deals with the accuracy of graduated measures (p. 64).

We print two photographs of the interior of the new drug showrooms in Cutler Street, London, E.C., which were taken on the occasion of the first use of the rooms (pp. 52 and 53).

We continue our report of the proceedings before the Select Committee on Patent Medicines on January 23. This portion had to be held over owing to the earlier publication of last week's issue (p. 54). There was no meeting of the Committee this week.

The principal communication at last week's meeting of the Chemical Society emanated from the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratory, and related to the constituents of caulophyllum. This contains an alkaloid methylecystine, and two crystalline glucosides which are saponins (p. 56).

News of the Week.

The chemists' evidence in the "Veronal Mystery" is given on p. 36.

There is a demand for a committee to inquire into the working of the Shops Act (p. 42).

Professor W. Miltacher, the Austrian pharmacologist, is dead. His portrait is given on p. 41.

M. Léger has been elected a member of the Pharmaceutical section of the Academy of Medicine of Paris (p. 38).

A fuller report of the Liverpool case under the Shops Act in which a chemist was fined for serving customers during closing hours, is given on p. 40.

Mr. Otto Helmer objects to a statement regarding alkali in cocoa which was circulated by Sandoz's Cocoa and Chocolate, Ltd. An injunction has been applied for (p. 39).

National Insurance Act.

A suggestion regarding stock mixtures for Insurance dispensing is made by Mr. Rowsell on p. 62.

Some suggestions for dealing with the dispensing tariff in Scotland are made in our correspondence columns (p. 63).

Pricing of Insurance prescriptions does not get much easier as the days go by. Read the problems and solutions beginning on p. 43.

We also deal with a considerable number of questions respecting the dispensing of Insurance prescriptions (p. 44).

Pharmaceutical matters in relation to Insurance Committees are reported on by correspondents in London and the provinces (p. 45).

The incidence of the Shops Act on Insurance dispensing is discussed on p. 50. Closing orders made under Section 4 are complicating the situation.

A series of questions have been asked in the House of Commons regarding the National Insurance Act, and especially about the position of dispensers (p. 42).

Trade and Market Matters.

Although price alterations are numerous, business is of a restricted character. Quinine, cream of tartar, atropine, ferri quin. cit., American peppermint, and lemon oils are dearer. Shellac, new cod-liver oil, and burdock are firmer. Cocaine, benzols, quicksilver (seconds), and copper sulphate are cheaper (p. 59).

CORNER FOR STUDENTS.

Conducted by Leonard Dobbin, Ph.D.

All communications for this section should be addressed thus: "Corner for Students, 'The Chemist and Druggist,' 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C."

Report on January Analytical Exercise.

THE powder distributed to students on January 7 contained 5 parts by weight of hydrous calcium sulphate, 4 parts of magnesium hydroxycarbonate, and 1 part of potassium arsenate. The calculated composition of such a mixture is:

Ca	...	...	...	...	11.6
Mg	...	...	...	...	10.2
K	...	...	...	...	2.2
SO ₄	...	...	...	...	27.9
CO ₃	...	...	...	...	18.8
AsO ₄	...	...	...	...	7.7
H	...	...	...	...	0.1
OH	...	...	...	...	3.5
H ₂ O	...	...	...	...	18.0
					100.0

The powder was substantially free from impurities, but gave faint indications of the presence of iron and of a chloride.

Samples of the powder were distributed to thirty-eight students, and twenty-five reports were sent in for examination. The writers of all the reports succeeded in detecting calcium and the carbonic-acid radical. The failures in the detection of the other constituents were: (a) Metallic radicals—Magnesium, 2; potassium, 11. (b) Acid radicals—Sulphuric, 2; arsenic, 10. Two students who detected arsenic did not recognise that it was present as an arsenate; and twelve failed to observe the evolution of water when the powder was heated in a dry test-tube.

While this exercise could not be regarded as difficult, it nevertheless afforded opportunities to profit by the devotion of special attention to at least two tolerably well-known sources of error. These were connected with the detection and appropriate treatment of the arsenate, and with the behaviour of the calcium sulphate. We shall deal with both in the following remarks.

In the treatment of the original hydrochloric-acid solution of the powder with hydrogen sulphide, it was quite easily possible to fail in obtaining any precipitate unless the precaution of heating the liquid to near its boiling-point—a precaution which should never be omitted—was taken, and the passing of the gas through the hot liquid was continued for some time. Several students failed at this stage, and also in connection with other analytical steps, to obtain evidence that arsenic was a constituent of the mixture. Even when the formation of a precipitate with hydrogen sulphide was observed, sufficient care was not always exercised in continuing the action of the gas until the reduction of the arsenate was complete, and the result in one or two instances was that the residual un-reduced arsenate was mistaken for a phosphate, owing to the similarity of its reaction with ammonium molybdate, and the further analysis was then conducted, unnecessarily, in a manner applicable to phosphate mixtures. The reaction with silver nitrate in a neutralised portion of the prepared solution for acid radicals was quite characteristic of an arsenate, and should have been recognised, but some students who had not detected the arsenate up to that point, either did not observe the reaction or, if they did, failed to interpret it correctly.

On the addition of ammonium chloride and excess of ammonia as group reagents, the formation of a precipitate which does not consist of iron-group hydroxides, or of insoluble phosphates, is only occasionally met with, and is, therefore, not very familiar; moreover, the text-books on analysis usually do not mention the probability of such a precipitate making its appearance. Nevertheless, this is a phenomenon which is not uncommon when the substance undergoing analysis contains calcium sulphate in considerable quantity. Sparingly soluble in cold water and still less soluble in hot water, calcium sulphate is pretty freely dissolved by hot dilute hydrochloric acid. On the mere

cooling of this solution some of the dissolved substance may separate again in crystalline form and be mistaken for lead chloride, as seems to have happened in one instance in the present analysis. When the solution is neutralised with ammonia and heated, an abundant precipitation of calcium sulphate usually takes place. When a less concentrated solution is neutralised, only a slight precipitation may occur on heating, and from a sufficiently dilute solution there usually is none at all. This may explain why some students observed a precipitate when testing for the iron group, although the majority did not. A few correspondents who escaped these calcium-sulphate complications met with another further on when testing for metals of the barium group in the acetic-acid solution of the ammonium carbonate precipitate. In one or two cases when this solution was not sufficiently dilute the addition of ammonium sulphate, followed by heating, caused the separation of a precipitate which was taken for strontium sulphate, but which was really composed of calcium sulphate. Students who have met with any of these difficulties would do well to make particular note, for future guidance, of the points mentioned in this paragraph, and to make certain, by the application of confirmatory tests, that precipitates really consist of the substances for which they are taken. Like calcium sulphate, strontium sulphate is also liable to precipitation from its solution in hydrochloric acid on the addition of ammonia in excess, and students should be on their guard not to mistake it for an iron-group precipitate.

Almost all the students who reported adding ferric chloride to a neutralised portion of the solution to be tested for acid radicals stated that no precipitate was formed by this reagent. This was not our experience, as we had no difficulty at this stage in obtaining a nearly white precipitate of ferric arsenate. If the solutions were really neutral, as stated, when the ferric chloride was added, it appears most probable that this reagent contained free hydrochloric acid in considerable quantity, instead of being as nearly neutral as it can be made without actually becoming turbid from the separation of a precipitate. If the reagent is too acid, the formation of a precipitate soluble in hydrochloric acid—such as ferric arsenate or ferric phosphate—may be prevented entirely.

PRIZES.

The First Prize for the best analysis has been awarded to G. W. CHEATER, 48 Salisbury Street, Shaftesbury.

The Second Prize has been awarded to JAMES C. BOYLE, 29 Claremont Street, University Road, Belfast.

First Prize.—Any scientific book that is published at a price not greatly exceeding half-a-guinea may be taken as a first prize.

Second Prize.—Any scientific book which is sold for about five shillings may be taken as a second prize.

The students to whom prizes are awarded are requested to write at once to the Publisher naming the book or books they select.

MARKS AWARDED FOR ANALYSES.

1. Correspondents who are unqualified:

G. W. Cheater (1st prize)	93	Argamate	...	...	76
J. C. Boyle (2nd prize)	90	Nomen	...	...	76
Niger	...	Chem	...	...	71
C. C.	...	Pasha	...	...	70
Lithol	...	Rare Chemical	...	...	70
Tolut	...	Xylem	...	...	68
Iodine	...	Smilax	...	...	67
Virus	...	Cynips	...	...	61
Hypo	...	Thymol	...	...	61
Phosphorus	...	Student	...	...	57

2. Correspondents who are qualified, or who have not indicated that they are unqualified:

Aspirin	...	82	Gwylm	...	...	88
Benzoïn	...	92	Regma	...	...	66
Cobalt	...	83				

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. C. BOYLE.—Your analysis would have been still more satisfactory had you made a more complete preliminary examination. The value of the results obtained seldom fails to justify the expenditure of the time, and the quantity of material employed need not be large.

NIGER.—You very nearly attained second place, but failed to do so chiefly through reporting the quantities of sulphate and carbonate as small. See the quantitative composition of the powder.

C. C.—The precipitate which you supposed to be lead chloride really consisted of calcium sulphate deposited when its solution in hot moderately concentrated hydrochloric acid was allowed to cool. Try a few experiments with a similar solution prepared from calcium sulphate. The ammonium molybdate reaction, from which you concluded that a phosphate was present, was due to the arsenate. The powder did not contain enough iron to give the well-marked indication you describe; hence iron must have been introduced in some of the reagents you used.

LITHOL.—We were unable to perceive any sublimate when the powder was heated in a dry tube, or to obtain indications of the presence of strontium or of a nitrate. Note particularly that potassium arsenate and many other arsenates—also numerous arsenites—do not yield sublimates when heated in the absence of reducing agents. It is a very common misconception that all compounds of arsenic give sublimates when heated; likewise that the absence of a sublimate indicates the absence of arsenic.

TOLUT.—The reaction with silver nitrate, which you attributed to a hypophosphite, was really due to the sodium thiosulphate, which you had previously added to the solution to aid in the reduction of the arsenate. The magnesium was something more than a trace.

HYPO.—We do not understand why you added sulphuric acid along with ammonium oxalate, with a view to remove the last traces of calcium from the solution to be tested for magnesium: if not added in excess its effect would be negligible, while if added in excess it would entirely prevent any precipitation of ammonium magnesium phosphate. Carnot's test for potassium must not be applied to the original substance when this contains metals belonging to various analytical groups.

VIRUS.—The precipitate which you obtained on adding ammonium chloride and excess of ammonia as group reagents, but in which you failed to find iron, chromium, or aluminium, no doubt consisted of calcium sulphate.

ARGAMATE.—The precipitate which you supposed to be aluminium hydroxide most probably contained both calcium sulphate and calcium arsenate.

CHEM.—You tested for a chloride in a solution prepared by dissolving the powder in hydrochloric acid, neutralising the solution with sodium carbonate and then acidifying with nitric acid. It is satisfactory that you succeeded in detecting it; but that is not the way to prepare a solution for testing for acids in general, and especially not for chlorides in particular.

PASHA.—The irritating fumes evolved when the powder was strongly heated with sulphuric acid were due simply to the volatilisation of some of the acid. The powder did not contain a citrate.

XYLEM.—Your report is too slender, although fairly accurate so far as it goes. The powder was, however, partly soluble in water—not insoluble, as you state.

SMILAX.—It is not sufficient to state that you tested for phosphate, borate, etc., without stating the tests applied. While from the results reported the reader may imagine the tests, these ought not to be left to the imagination. You seem to have attributed the silver nitrate reaction with the arsenate to the presence of a silicate.

THYMOL.—When you added silver nitrate to the original solution of the powder in hydrochloric acid, you could scarcely fail to observe the reaction of a chloride. See also the reply to "Chem."

STUDENT.—Apparently you tested for magnesium at the proper stage and in the usual way, but you do not state the result of the test, and you omit magnesium from your list of metals found.

ASPIRIN.—On careful repetition of the test for an ammonium salt we failed to obtain any indication of its presence.

BENZOIN.—Several students reported the evolution of water and of carbon dioxide when the powder was heated in a dry test-tube. There was little difficulty about the detection of both—of the one by careful observation of the sides of the tube, and of the other by aid of a drop of lime-water.

COBALT.—The special test for a borate by means of turmeric paper gave a negative result in our hands.

GWYLM.—No advantage accrued in the present analysis from the separate examination of the aqueous and the hydrochloric-acid solutions of the powder.

REGMA.—The fact that after boiling the powder with sodium carbonate and filtering, the residue dissolved in dilute hydrochloric acid with effervescence, did not prove that some decomposition had taken place, seeing that the original powder likewise dissolved with effervescence in this acid.

ENGLISH AND WELSH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

During last week the pharmacy of Mr. F. H. Newton, chemist and druggist, Catherine Street, Salisbury, were broken into. The sum of 2s., which was left in the till, was all that was taken.

"Sunday" was the play reproduced by the Warrington Dramatic Society at the Royal Court Theatre, Warrington, for a few nights recently. The rôle of Dave was excellently filled by Mr. H. M. Ashton, chemist and druggist.

The representative character of a meeting held in London this week to deal with the question of shop-ratting was exemplified by the mention of several organisations represented, among them the "Federation of Pharmaceutical Associations." Why this belated representation?

In order to deal with the woman-suffrage question it has been suggested that a "Cabinette" of leading Parliamentary men should be formed from the supporters and opponents of the measure in equal numbers, including Ministers and ex-Ministers, as well as several private members, amongst the latter being Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones.

Contracts.

Leeds Corporation.—Mr. Arthur Winterbottom, 110 Roundhay Road, Leeds, appointed dispensing chemist for the C Police Division.

Barnsley Town Council.—Mr. H. B. Billington, chemist, Barnsley, for the annual supply of drugs to the Kendray and Smallpox Hospitals.

A Patent Baking-powder.

Restoration of the following patent, which expires owing to the non-payment of the renewal fee, has been applied for:

By R. A. Craig of the patent granted to him for "an improved process for rendering chemical ingredients used in the manufacture of baking-powder, or incorporated with substances such as flour to make it self-raising, or for other purposes impervious to moisture at ordinary temperatures," numbered 3035 of 1907.

Any person may give notice of opposition to the restoration of any of these patents on or before March 25.

Analysts' Affairs.

In Greenwich last quarter all the drug-samples (47) were genuine.

The quarterly report of the Woolwich analyst states that all the twelve drug-samples taken for analysis were certified as genuine.

The public analyst of Southampton reports that one of the seven samples of olive oil examined in December contained 40 per cent. of cottonseed oil.

Three samples each of ground ginger, cream of tartar, and olive oil were taken informally at Hull during December. All of these were genuine.

One sample each of health-salts, cream of tartar, sulphur, and magnesia were examined by the Merionethshire analyst last quarter. All were genuine.

In Wandsworth last quarter, of twenty-three samples, the only ones adulterated were three of camphorated oil, being 20, 16, and 12 per cent. deficient in camphor respectively.

In Bethnal Green during the past quarter four camphorated-oil samples, three of arrowroot, and one of olive oil were taken for analysis. The only adulterated sample was one of camphorated oil.

The Hackney public analyst reports having examined last quarter four samples of olive oil and three each of camphorated oil, arrowroot, and liquorice powder. The only sample not up to standard was one of camphorated oil 7.69 per cent. deficient in camphor. No action is being taken.

In the East Riding (Yorks) the analyst reports on the following samples taken last quarter: Tartaric acid (8),

tincture of quinine (7), and antimonial wine (3). Two samples of the tincture were deficient in active constituent to the extent of 28.1 gr. and 46 gr. of sulphate of quinine. The vendor was fined 17s. including costs.

Guardians' Doings.

The Kersington Guardians have decided to apply to the Local Government Board for sanction to increase the salary of Mr. C. H. Russell, dispenser, from 180% to 200% per annum, this increase to be considered as personal to Mr. Russell.

The Auckland Guardians adopted, with five dissentients, a recommendation by the Visiting Committee that a new contract be entered into with the workhouse doctor, whereby the Board should provide all drugs and medical appliances by contract, and provide a dispenser at the Infirmary.

The Strood (Kent) Guardians had before them on January 24 a long report from the medical officer regarding the increase in cost of nourishment, dressings, and appliances used in the infirmary. He suggested that a considerable saving might be effected by purchasing dressings direct from the manufacturers. In reply to a suggestion that articles be put on the list of goods to be tendered for, the Chairman (Mr. F. Wright) said it would not be carrying out the advice of the doctor. Mr. W. J. Wenborn declared that the Guardians could get just as good terms by buying in larger quantities through local chemists as from the manufacturers. Mr. Dale also supported. It was decided to invite tenders for six months, the Chairman stating that they would not be confined to local traders.

Birmingham Notes.

At the National Dog Show held in Birmingham this week Mr. F. Barlow, pharmacist, Balsall Heath, was among the prize-winners for collie dogs.

Mr. Edward Woolf, druggist's sundriesman, has been elected chairman of the local Commercial Travellers' Association, with which he has been closely connected for over twenty years.

At the meeting of the Midland Pharmaceutical Association last Monday a notable feature was the heartiness with which the younger qualified brethren joined in the discussion, which was enthusiastic, scathing, and sarcastic.

The "Varsity" Chemical Society's meeting was attended by a number of local pharmacists. Sir Oliver Lodge was in fine form and sprinkled his excellent address on "Radio-Activity" with a strong libation of good humour. He said the glow-worm knows how to obtain light without heat, but has not yet divulged the secret.

Dr. Chapple, M.P., a member of the Select Committee on Patent Medicines, delivered recently an interesting address at the Friends' Library, Bull Street, Birmingham, entitled "Behind the Scenes." This took the form of a psychological study, dwelling upon the effects of drugs on the nervous system and especially the action of alcohol and morphine.

The Veronal Mystery.

The new inquiry ordered by the High Court of Justice on the death of Hugh Eric Trevanion (see *C. & D.*, January 18, index folio 76) was opened at Hove Town Hall by the East Sussex Coroner on January 24. The case is creating much public interest. Expert evidence was given by Mr. B. H. Spilsbury, M.B., Dr. W. H. Willcox, Home Office analyst, and Dr. Baines, the medical attendant on deceased. Evidence as to supplying veronal to Mr. Trevanion on August 15 and September 2 was given by Mr. Wm. Humphrey Gibson, F.C.S., chemist, 122 King's Road, Brighton. On each occasion he was served with twelve cachets, each containing $7\frac{1}{2}$ gr. of veronal, this being a medium dose. They were dispensed according to a prescription in French. In answer to Mr. R. D. Muir, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, witness said he had no doubt that the box produced at the last inquest was supplied either on August 15 or September 2. Mr. Gibson also answered questions in regard to the recording of the sales, and the cautions that were given to Mr. Trevanion about the danger of veronal. Mr. J. D. Marshall, managing director of Messrs. John

Bell & Croyden, Ltd., chemists, 55 Wigmore Street, London, W., stated in evidence that deceased's brother, Mr. Claud Trevanion, brought him a number of cachets and asked him to examine them separately and tell him what they contained and what the material was. He did so, and found that seven similar cachets contained 5.8, 6.1, 6.5, 5.9, 6.5, 5.9, and 6.3 grains of veronal respectively. A different one contained 8.2 and the remains of another 0.1. There was nothing mixed with the veronal. Mr. H. L. Douthwaite, chemist and druggist, Chepstow Corner, London, W., stated that deceased was introduced to him as a customer by Miss Geneste on June 15, 1911, when he opened an account. From that time up to the following May witness supplied prescriptions to deceased of $7\frac{1}{2}$ gr. of veronal. On May 19, 1912, he supplied deceased with one dozen cachets of veronal; on June 11 with one dozen cachets; on June 24 with two dozen; on July 9 with two dozen; and on September 4 with one dozen and an odd one. Deceased said he would take one with him and the others could be sent on to Brighton with other goods he had ordered. The inquiry is proceeding.

From Various Courts.

At Preston Police Court on January 23, Arthur Dempsey was summoned for a breach of Territorial Regulations. Defendant, who was employed by Messrs. Parkinson & Sons, wholesale druggists, joined the Yeomanry in 1909, and two years ago was promoted head of the office staff. On the days of encampments being altered to Whitsuntide (one of the busiest times of the year for the firm), his employers declined to grant him leave of absence, and would have been obliged to dismiss him had defendant gone to camp without permission. Notwithstanding, the Bench imposed a fine of 10s. and costs.

A curious trick was mentioned at the Bolton Police Court on January 25. It was alleged that the defendant, a married woman, after purchasing goods at the establishment of Walter & Riley, chemists, Bradshaw Gate, failed to pay the bill to the cashier at the desk. On returning later for some magnesia which was being prepared she was questioned, and declared that she had paid for the goods, but in the meantime had lost the receipted bill. The cashier informed the Bench that defendant did not pay. The Bench ordered the woman to be placed under probation for three months and to pay costs, 6s. 9d.

At an inquest at Manchester on Monday on the body of Helen Bruce (37), Moss Side, Manchester, Dr. Magian said that about twelve months previously he had been called in to see the woman, and had found her then in a very drowsy state. Whether this was the result of some drug he could not then say, but on one occasion when he visited the house he noticed a piece of paper on the table with the name of a poison which was exceedingly rare, "Curare." This was an Indian arrow poison, and might have produced the symptoms from which she was suffering. On seeing that witness had become suspicious, deceased discontinued calling upon him. Dr. Leech said death was due to heart failure, and a verdict of "Death from natural causes" was returned.

At Bow Street Police Court, on January 25, Richard Henry Barber (47), whose real name is said to be Harry Virtue, was charged on remand with wilfully procuring himself to be placed on the Medical Register by fraudulent representations. There was also a further charge of forging and uttering nine death certificates. It appeared that Dr. Richard Henry Barber, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin., and L.F.P.S. Glas., who was registered as a medical practitioner in 1888, was the son of a journeyman wheelwright, and was born at Worcester. He was accidentally drowned at Portland, Oregon, U.S.A., in 1904. It was alleged that prisoner had been able to practise since 1905 in the name of the above-deceased doctor. Accused as a young man was said to have followed several occupations, including that of a butcher. He became assistant to a veterinary surgeon in 1904 under the name of Alexander Marshall, and later practised at Southsea as a veterinary surgeon on his own account. In all probability he went from there to the United States on January 29. The prisoner was remanded.

IRISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

It is rumoured that yet another chemist is opening in the near neighbourhood of South Richmond Street. There are already some half-dozen there, with one druggist.

Mr. Samuel Bonnar (Bonnar & Henderson, druggists, Ballymena) was re-elected Vice-Chairman of Ballymena Urban Council at the annual meeting on January 24.

Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, Ltd., Bride Street, Dublin, have been declared contractors for drugs, etc., to the Royal City of Dublin Hospital for the year commencing February 1.

Mr. Mathew Hedley, M.R.C.V.S., head of veterinary staff Board of Agriculture, Ireland, is seriously ill. Mr. Hedley was overworked during the late outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, and took a short sea trip without much benefit.

A destructive fire took place in Church Street, Ballymena, on Sunday, January 26, and so intense was the heat that the plate-glass windows in the pharmacy of Mr. J. A. Woodside, Ph.C., on the opposite side of the street, were cracked in several places.

The premises which were in the occupation of the late Dr. Kinsella, in Grafton Street, are to be opened this week by Messrs. Pollock & Co., Dublin, opticians and mathematical-instrument makers. Great alterations have been made, the old front having been removed and new windows have been put in.

The name of Mr. Wm. McMullan, of Messrs. Thomas McMullan & Co., druggists, Victoria Street, Belfast, has been placed by the Corporation of Belfast on the list of those qualified to fill the office of High Sheriff of the county. At the quarterly meeting of the Corporation the outgoing Sheriff made complimentary references to Mr. McMullan.

At the meeting of the committee of the Limerick Industrial Development Association a letter was read from a large English buyer of methylated spirit who is open to purchase large quantities. Spirit is produced from potatoes, which are extensively grown in Ireland, but as far as the Council of the Industrial Association can ascertain, the spirit industry is not carried on in any part of the country. The Association are submitting the matter to an expert in order to get the details of the process of manufacture.

At Cork Police Court on January 27, a young man named George Westland was charged with stealing a bottle of cremolia and tooth-paste, the property of Mr. Arthur Mayne, chemist, Bridge Street, Cork. Mr. J. Whitacre, the manager, gave evidence, and Constable Garvey stated that when he charged prisoner with the offence he took some money out of his pocket and wanted to pay for the articles. The Court took a lenient view of the case, and decided to allow the accused out under the "Probation of Offenders Act" on giving bail in the sum of 50s. to come up for judgment if called upon within two years.

Doctors' Dispute.

There is still no prospect of a settlement in connection with the dispute between the medical profession in Londonderry and the Federation of Benefit Societies in regard to the scale of payment for attendance and medicine. Some of the factory proprietors promulgated a scheme to include factory hands on a basis of the payment of 1d. per week. A section of the workers agreed to this, and some of the doctors looked upon it with favour. Thus it was hoped that the door would be opened for a final settlement. The Benefit Societies, however, took prompt steps to prevent their members accepting a partial settlement, and at a large public meeting they pledged themselves afresh to stand by each other and only accept a settlement that embraced the entire body of workers.

The Empties Trouble.

A difficulty having arisen between Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, Ltd., Dublin, medicine-contractors to the Belfast

Union and the Board of Guardians, on the subject of empties, the matter came before the Board at last week's meeting, when the Medical Charities Committee reported that they had considered the letter received on December 20 from the company stating that according to their books there is 41l. 18s. 8d. due by the Guardians for packages not returned from the workhouse and various dispensaries of the Union up to September 1912. It was requested that the empties might be packed and returned, and they would bear any reasonable expense. The Clerk submitted replies which he had received up to the time of the committee meeting from the medical officers and dispensers. From these it would appear, says the minute, that Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, Ltd., do not take the trouble to have the empties removed when notified—e.g., Glengall Street Dispensary. In the case of Templemore Avenue empties were removed, but credit notes were not forwarded, although they were applied for repeatedly. In Ligoniel Dispensary empties were left at the risk of the contractors, owing to their delay in removing them until they had become a serious inconvenience to the dispensary officers. Dr. Loughridge, Carnmoney, states that the carriers for Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, Ltd., have refused since July last to remove any empties, and they are now a matter of inconvenience. Previous to this the carriers removed them regularly when delivering fresh medicines. Replies from other medical officers were also read. The Board decided to adopt the recommendation of the committee repudiating any liability for medicine empties, and directing that Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, Ltd., be informed accordingly.

SCOTTISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Fife.

Mr. Edward Gordon, chemist and druggist, Kelty, is removing into more commodious premises in Main Street.

Mr. D. Leadbetter, chemist and druggist, Main Street, Lochgelly, has been appointed a member of the School Board.

Representatives of over 1,300 insured persons met in the Masonic Hall, Crossgates, last week with members of the Dunfermline Co-operative Society Committee to discuss arrangements for starting a drug-store there. The friendly societies represented included Crossgates Gardeners, Fordell Foresters, Hill of Beath Rechabites, Crossgates Shepherds, and Crossgates Rechabites. The Miners' Union was also represented. It is expected that the drug-store will be opened in a few weeks.

Edinburgh.

It is reported that over 200,000 forms for doctors have been distributed locally. As there is less than half this number of insured individuals the figures suggest quite a lot of possibilities.

The employees of Messrs. Harkness, Beaumont & Co., manufacturing chemists, held their annual dance on Friday evening, January 24, in Glendinning's Rooms, Pilrig Street. The company, including friends, numbered about sixty.

All sorts of advertising devices are being resorted to in the matter of Insurance dispensing. Prescriptions are being shown on files in the windows, large outside placards proclaim the glad tidings, neighbourhoods are being billed; in short, nearly everyone seems anxious to share in the good work. One pharmacist has a portion of his establishment painted to resemble a panel, and the announcement thereon commences: "On the Panel." Messrs. Mackenzie & Co., Forrest Road, are showing a bill announcing that the firm have not undertaken Insurance Act dispensing because they have never kept such cheap drugs in stock.

Glasgow and the West.

Edwards' Harlene is being largely advertised on the back of tramway-tickets in Glasgow.

Mr. T. S. Johnston, chemist and druggist, is opening a new pharmacy in Gairbraird Street, Maryhill, near the junction of Bilsland Drive and Gairbraird Street.

Samuel Manderson, chemist and druggist, 51 Ardgowan Street, Port-Glasgow, has granted a trust-deed on behalf of his creditors in favour of Mr. John Meikle, 165 West George Street, Glasgow.

A sub-committee of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Chemists' Association has been appointed to go carefully into the method of charging Insurance Act prescriptions and to work out prices for all quantities to facilitate this. The Council suggests to its members that it would be advisable to defer the pricing of Insurance prescriptions until the sub-committee report on the matter, thus making a uniform system throughout the entire area covered by the Association.

FRENCH NEWS.

(From the "C. & D." Paris Correspondent.)

PARIS ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.—M. Léger, the well-known chief pharmacist of the Beaujon Hospital, Paris, was elected a member of the Pharmaceutical Section of the Academy of Medicine on January 21, in the place of the late M. Joannès Chatin. The name of M. Léger is familiar to English readers as a Hanbury Medallist. He was a pupil of the distinguished chemist Professor Jungfleisch and is a past President of the Paris Society of Pharmacy. M. Léger is also the author of a number of much appreciated works on chemistry, notably on cinchona alkaloids, and in general on the subject of pharmaceutical substances.

A PHARMACIST'S PROGENY.—M. Raymond Poincaré, the new President of the French Republic, is the grandson of a Nancy pharmacist who had two sons, Antoine and Léon. The latter also had two boys, Raymond, the new President, and Lucien, the present Director of the Secondary Schools Department at the Ministry of Public Instruction, Paris.

ALCOHOLIC DEGREES.—British exporters of spirits to France as well as French wine exporters to Great Britain have frequent difficulty in converting degrees of British proof spirit into alcoholic degrees Gay-Lussac and *vice-versa*. For the convenience of British exporters the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris hold tables at their disposal which show the equivalent of alcoholic degrees of any figure above or below proof. The equivalent in alcoholic degrees Gay-Lussac of any degree of proof spirit may be obtained by multiplying the figure by 57.2 degrees (centesimal degree of absolute proof spirit) and dividing by 100. Thus 30-per-cent. proof spirit $\times 57.2^\circ$ divided by 100, gives 17.16 degrees Gay-Lussac alcoholometer. A still easier way is to consider 4 degrees alcohol (Gay-Lussac) as the equivalent of 7 degrees proof spirit.

BURIED TREASURE.—Among the many fine old houses once the mansions of noble French families, and now occupied as wholesale drug warehouses, is No. 13 rue Pavée-du-Marais (Darrasse Frères), built in 1634 by Nicole de Lorraine, and consequently termed the Hôtel de Lorraine, but sometimes alluded to as the Hôtel d'Herbouville, from the name of a later proprietor. The next-door house (No. 11), being in the market, has been secured by MM. Darrasse Frères for the extension of their business. A legend clings round this latter building to the effect that during the Revolution a mysterious individual therein buried a treasure, which he never returned to claim. As the new purchasers are about to demolish the old house, it is proposed to take this opportunity of clearing up the matter, and the Tribunal has nominated an architect to be present while the excavations, etc., are made. A curious clause in the lease of this house for several generations has been that the landlord claims any treasure found on the premises.

PHARMACY IN THE CABINET.—Senator Jean Morel, who has accepted the Colonies portfolio in the new Briand Cabinet, is the ex-pharmacist who occupied the same post in M. Briand's 1911 Ministry. He took his diploma at the Paris Superior School of Pharmacy in 1880, and during

the succeeding seven years kept open shop at Charlieu (Loire). He became first Mayor of that town, and subsequently Councillor for the Canton (County Councillor, as we should say in England) before presenting himself as a candidate for Parliamentary honours. He was elected as representative of Roanne (Loire) in 1898, and was regularly re-elected to the Lower House by the same constituency until January 1912, when he became one of the Senators for his Department. In 1905, in conjunction with MM. Cazeneuve and Féron, he laid on the table of the House a proposition legally to abolish the antiquated and already practically obsolete rule as to "swearing in" newly diplomacé pharmacists, and he had the satisfaction of seeing his idea formally voted by the Chamber before its dissolution in 1906.

BUSINESS CHANGES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MR. WM. T. BYGOTT, chemist and druggist, of 21 Buxton Road, Huddersfield, announces that he is declining business.

MR. H. P. WHITE, chemist and druggist, has taken over the business of Mr. S. H. Gould, pharmacist, 4 Silchester Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

MR. FRED. R. SMALLMAN, chemist and druggist, formerly of Sandy Park Road, Bristol, is opening a new pharmacy this week at 228 Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

MESSRS. O. WALLIS & Co. (late Robbins) will, for family reasons, shortly convert their business into a limited company as O. Wallis & Co., Ltd., and they have removed from Wardour Street to 16 Cross Street, Hatton Garden, London, E.C., to which address all communications should be directed.

POISONING FATALITIES.

FOURTEEN deaths from the effects of poisons have been reported since Wednesday of last week. Two were by misadventure.

Aconite contained in a poisonous liniment killed Isabella Smith (70), widow, St. Philip's, Bristol, who swallowed some with suicidal intent. At the inquest the bottle containing the liniment was produced, and found to be one of a type used for spirits. A police-sergeant was instructed to make inquiries into this breach of the poisons regulations.

Carbolic Acid caused the suicidal death of Winifred Cox (28), in a nursing-home at Camborne.

Belladonna and Chloroform Liniment was intentionally taken with fatal effects by a Battersea bank clerk named Frank William Morrison (52).

Hydrochloric Acid.—Harold John Bray, cycle agent, killed himself with this corrosive fluid.

Medinal.—Jennie Sadler (52), widow of a commission agent, Maida Vale, committed suicide by poisoning herself with this hypnotic.

Morphine by accidental overdose accounted for the death of a nurse probationer at Queen's Hospital, London, N.E. The poison was taken in the form of a hypodermic injection.

Potassium Cyanide.—Frank Buchanan (69), retired solicitor, committed suicide with this chemical. Mr. Thomas England, chemist, High Street, Romford, told the Coroner's jury he had refused to supply deceased with the poison on several occasions. He believed that it had been obtained nearer London.—Spencer Clark (35) also poisoned himself at Bristol with this lethal agent.

Prussic Acid.—At the inquiry into the death of Allan McMillan (36), chemist, Regent Parade, Harrogate, the jury returned a verdict of "Death from an overdose of prussic acid, but there was no evidence to show how it was administered."

Salt of Lemon Solution, drunk in mistake, caused the death of Leonard Caraher (18), at Hampstead.—Margaret Jackson (62), South Shields, and Fanny Blundell (41), Balsall Heath, ended their lives with this poison.

Veronal.—Ellen Pauline Schmolder (63), Fallowfield, died from an overdose of veronal. At the inquest it was found that deceased committed suicide while temporarily insane.

LEGAL REPORTS.

TRADE LAW.

Washing-soda.—At Clerkenwell on January 22, the second stage of prosecution under the Merchandise Marks Act in regard to the sale of "mixed soda" (*C. & D.*, January 11, index folio 38) was heard. Dr. Alfred Gordon Salamon was the only other and final witness for the prosecution. Mr. Beck, for the defence, submitted that mixed washing-soda was a proper description of the article, and was well known in the trade. The case was again adjourned.

Chemist's Shop Front.—Mr. R. Evan Parker, chemist, Coventry, was the unsuccessful appellant on Tuesday, January 28, before a King's Bench Divisional Court, from a decision of the County Court Judge at Coventry. The Judge had non-suited the appellant in a counterclaim he entered in an action against him for fees brought by Mr. F. Foster, architect (see *C. & D.*, 1912, II., 466). After hearing counsel for appellant, the Court dismissed the appeal, Mr. Justice Ridley remarking that had there been a charge of fraud or collusion things would have been different; but the architect, as arbitrator, was acting in a judicial capacity between the parties, and he therefore could not be accused of negligence when he gave his decision on the certificate.

Cream of Tartar.—In Banff Sheriff Court on January 28, before Sheriff Stuart, William Adamson, chemist and druggist, Portsoy, was summoned under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act for selling cream of tartar which was certified by the public analyst to contain lead in the proportion of 2 gr. per lb. Mr. Ingram, solicitor, Portsoy, appeared for respondent, and asked to have the sample of the purchase left with respondent identified and sent to the Government laboratories for analysis. Mr. R. Y. Mackay, Procurator-Fiscal, objected, and the Sheriff agreed that the case must take its course. He would continue the case for proof. Mr. Ingram said the Government analysis would then be too late for proof, but the Sheriff indicated that it would not be, and adjourned the hearing until February 11.

Analysing Tea-waste.—In the Lord Mayor's Court, before the Common Serjeant (Sir F. Bosanquet, K.C.) and a jury, a claim was made by Mr. H. C. T. Gardner, analyst and pharmacist, of the Miller Hospital, Greenwich, against Mr. H. A. Amies, tea-blender, 6 Harp Lane, E.C., and 240 Bow Road, E., for ten guineas for professional services rendered as an analytical chemist in analysing tea-waste and drawing up a report as to the caffeine-content. Evidence was given by the plaintiff, Mr. E. B. M. Frost, dentist, and Mr. O. A. Elias, F.C.S., for the plaintiff, and by defendant for himself, his plea being that the matter arose through a conversation in Mr. Frost's house, where he met the plaintiff, and that the sample was given at Mr. Frost's request. When Mr. Gardner spoke of the account, defendant told him to send it to Mr. Frost. The jury, after hearing the evidence, found a verdict for the plaintiff for the amount claimed. Judgment was entered accordingly, with costs.

A Rubber Case.—In the King's Bench Division of the High Court, London, on January 28, before Mr. Justice Scrutton and a special jury, Mr. F. A. Barker claimed against Messrs. Lewis & Peat, produce-brokers, Mincing Lane, E.C., to recover 10 per cent. commission on all commissions and brokerage received by the defendants in their stock and share department. He also claimed an account and 340*l.*, representing 10 per cent. commission on certain underwriting by the defendants. The defendants said the commission they agreed to pay the plaintiff was only 5 per cent. on the net results of the share department, and that the department resulted in a loss. The dispute arose out of the rubber boom of two years ago. Judgment was then given for the plaintiff for 340*l.*, and it was ordered that an account should be taken for the years 1910, 1911, and 1912 to May 31 each year, to be taken separately from the commissions due to the plaintiff on the basis of the finding of the jury with regard to the commission. The parties were given costs on the issues on which they succeeded.

High Court Cases.

Unless when otherwise stated these cases have been heard in the High Court of Justice, London.

DENTIST AND ASSISTANT.

In the Chancery Division, on January 27, before Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady, Mr. Whitmore Richards, on behalf of the plaintiff in the action of *Bernard v. Daie*, moved

for judgment in default of appearance. He said the plaintiff had carried on a dental business at Aldershot and the defendant was his assistant. After leaving the plaintiff, the defendant set up a rival business in breach of an agreement of service between them. The judgment asked for followed the form of the agreement. The defendant did not appear on the application.

His Lordship: Very well; take judgment in default of appearance.

ANALYST AND COCOA COMPANY.

In the Chancery Division, on January 24, Mr. L. O. Buckmaster, K.C., M.P., applied to Mr. Justice Warrington, *ex parte*, in the action of Otto Hehner against Sandow's Cocoa and Chocolate, Ltd.

Mr. Buckmaster (with him Mr. Gaibraith) said he was instructed to move on behalf of the plaintiff (Mr. Otto Hehner, F.I.C., F.C.S.) for an injunction to restrain the defendants from using the name of the plaintiff in connection with advertisements of cocoa. Mr. Hehner was a gentleman of considerable reputation in connection with the analysis of food. He had been a President of the Society of Public Analysts, Chairman of the London Section of Society of Chemical Industry, and was public analyst to several public bodies.

His Lordship: I know him perfectly well.

Mr. Buckmaster said that Mr. Hehner was not a doctor and had no right to the title of doctor. He had made a special study of the analysis of cocoa and had always stated that the addition of alkali in cocoa did not detract from the nutritive and digestive qualities of cocoa. On January 22 an advertisement appeared in the "Daily Mail," the "Daily Express," and other papers headed "Cocoa." "Doctors say it must be pure." "Strong condemnation of common adulterated cocoa." The advertisement went on to say that eminent medical specialists strongly condemned the practice of adulteration of cocoa. Then followed a statement of the opinion of Dr. Fitzgerald Powell. The statement which the plaintiff objected to was that

"Dr. Otto Hehner, formerly President of the Society of Analytical Chemists, says that cocoa is liable to a number of fraudulent additions, including the addition of 3 to 4 per cent. of alkalis. Many of the cocoas sold in England are made in accordance with this method. Other experts have given equally strong opinions condemning this form of adulteration."

Mr. Otto Hehner, said Mr. Buckmaster, had never lent his name to such an advertisement as this, or sanctioned it being used even in the most indirect manner. The statement made in the advertisement leads to the opposite conclusion to what he had publicly stated. Mr. Hehner strongly objected to that kind of thing being allowed to continue. He was bound to come to the Court at once for this reason: several of the daily papers were often reproduced at the end of the week in another form and consequently the statements were liable to be circulated again. Again the Institute of Chemistry, of which Mr. Hehner is a distinguished member, had held that advertising opinions of chemists is a practice to be condemned, and members offending against that ruling are liable to be excluded from the Institute. Counsel submitted that it was clearly a case in which his client was entitled to the immediate protection of the Court.

His Lordship (reading from the notice of motion): "Statements leading to the belief that the plaintiff had given or expressed to the defendants any certificate or opinion or recommendation of the defendants' cocoa." I will grant you an injunction over the 31st inst. and give you leave to serve notice of motion for that date.

Pharmacy Acts.

WAS THE BELLADONNA PLASTER SOLD?

At the Marylebone County Court, before Sir W. Lucius Selge on January 27, the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain sued T. C. Humby, 77 Carlton Vale, London, N.W., for 5*l.*, the statutory penalty incurred by the sale of a scheduled poison.

Mr. W. H. Quarrell, for the plaintiff, stated that an inspector of the Society had purchased a belladonna plaster at Lloyd's Drug Stores, 77 Carlton Vale, of which

the defendant was the manager, and he was not a registered chemist. This statement was supported by the evidence of George Waldoek, the inspector.

Thomas Tickle, B.Sc., F.I.C., proved that the plaster is a scheduled poison and contained 0.55 gr. of belladonna alkaloids.

Replying to his Honour, the defendant said he is a druggist, but not registered, simply trading as drug-stores manager for Mr. White, who bought the premises some time in May last.

His Honour: What is he?—Defendant: He is not a chemist at all. This man came in and asked for a belladonna-plaster, and I showed him one that I had in the shop, and then went to attend to another customer. When I came back to him he had taken it off the counter, and walked out of the shop with it. I contend that that is not selling within the meaning of the Act. I am summoned for selling poison. The basis of the plaster is soap, and that is not poison.

Mr. Quarrell: But the poison is contained in the plaster?—Defendant: You approached me last Thursday to sign a document saying that it contained poison.

His Honour: You might just as well have signed it. It was perfectly unnecessary to have asked you to sign it, except that it would have saved the trouble and expense of coming here.—Defendant: I say that there was no sale. The inspector obtained the goods under false pretences. I have been forty years in the trade, and have never had any fault found with me by the police or by any others, and I have had forty or fifty samples taken. Mr. Allen, the present President of the Pharmaceutical Society, lives near, and they have been trying for years to get a purchase from me, but have not succeeded. I say I did not sell. There is no notice up of my trade—I keep the shop open for business.

His Honour: You sell other things beside belladonna-plaster?—Defendant: Yes, certainly; but I submit I did not sell.

What do you sell?—I sell simply non-poisonous drugs. I have no poison on the premises.

Is this the only thing you have containing poison?—I do not sell anything that contains poison.

Are these plasters part of your stock-in-trade?—No.

How many have you?—Only that one.

Had you not got two?—I had another, but a lady had it for rheumatism. I had them from Mr. Pratt, the chemist.

In answer to an invitation by his Honour, defendant said he remembered the inspector coming into the shop. He did not speak to the inspector outside: he would not be outside the shop at that hour of the evening. He simply asked for a belladonna plaster. He (defendant) said: What for? The inspector said, "My back," motioning to the place. He (defendant), noticing that he was a big man, replied: "I have not one that will suit you of that description; you want a long plaster 8 in. by 5 in. by 4 in. The one I have will be of no use to you, and I have no other in the shop." He laid the plaster on the counter, and went to attend to another customer, and having done so returned, when he found that the inspector and the plaster had disappeared, and *7d.* was lying on the counter in its place. He knew nothing further about the matter until he had a notice from the Pharmaceutical Society.

His Honour: There must have been some bargaining when sevenpence was left on the counter?—Defendant: I mentioned casually that that was the price. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred you go into a chemist's shop in London to buy a belladonna-plaster, and it is not supplied by a chemist.

Boots are qualified chemists?—They have a qualified chemist at each depot, that is all.

His Honour (to Waldoek): You told the defendant that the plaster was for your back?—Waldoek: Yes.

Then you told a lie?—If I had said it was for the Pharmaceutical Society I would not have got it.

What did he do when you said you would take it?—He wrapped it up in paper, and I paid for it and went out of the shop. I bought some other articles as well as that.

Mr. Quarrell put in a letter dated October 24, written by the defendant to the Society, in which he said that he remembered selling the plaster, but by a slip of memory he did not remember that it contained a scheduled poison, and asking that body to take a lenient view of his offence.

Defendant said that the Society sometimes overlooked these defaults when they got a person to admit that he

had done wrong. He would have done that, but it was not his reading of the Act that a sale had been made.

His Honour said, in view of the evidence which had been given, there did not appear to have been a sale, but the letter from the defendant confirmed the view of the plaintiffs. Judgment for the plaintiffs, with costs.

Defendant pleaded that he could not pay at once, and his Honour ordered him to pay 10s. a month.

Shops Act, 1912.

SALE OF MEDICINES DURING CLOSING HOURS.

As briefly reported in our *Coloured Supplement* last week, Mr. Stewart Deacon, Stipendiary Magistrate, Liverpool, had before him on January 22 another case in which a chemist and druggist (Mr. Thomas Hartley, Westminster Road) was summoned for serving customers during closing hours. We now give a fuller report of the hearing:

The prosecution alleged that shortly after seven o'clock on Wednesday, January 8, an inspector called at the defendant's premises, where there was displayed a card, "Closed on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Continuous attendance." The inspector asked for a threepenny bottle of cod-liver oil emulsion. This was supplied without any question as to whether or not it was required for an existing illness. When, however, he asked for a violet powder he was told that this could not be supplied. Subsequently the official kept observation on the shop, and during the course of twenty minutes he saw it entered by two men, three women, and fourteen children.

Mr. Morgan for the defendant and Mr. Duder for the prosecution having discussed the legal aspects of the case,

The Stipendiary ruled that the substantial point that had to be met by the defence was whether the defendant inquired whether the medicine was required for immediate illness. Some time ago (*C. & D.*, January 11, index folio 39) he had decided that the law set forth that the medicine must be for an existing illness, and the onus was accordingly thrown on the chemist to show that he had been reasonably satisfied before he served a customer that this stipulation applied. That decision was accurately reported in the papers. He could not but feel that a chemist like the defendant had not seen a report which so much concerned his own business.

Mr. Hartley, in his evidence, stated that he had usually made a practice of taking the names and addresses of his customers during the half-day holidays and required them to state that the purchase was wanted for an immediate illness, but admitted that he did not take this precaution when the inspector asked for the emulsion.

Mr. Duder: You know there have been complaints by your fellow-chemists in your neighbourhood about you?—I do not know that there have been complaints. I do not think there are over two in my district.

There are at least half a dozen within a comparatively short distance?—I do not think so.

Have they all closed loyally in pursuance of this Act?—I do not know. I have not been looking after their business. I have had to deal with some thirty to forty prescriptions a night.

Have not your solicitors told you of the correspondence they have had from the Town Clerk's office?—It was mentioned two or three days ago.

Have you ever been advised by your solicitors in the course of the communications that you were either entitled to make up medicines that have been prescribed only in urgent cases?—And with that I have complied.

When you talk of the rush of business, is it not true to say that this has been caused by your shop being opened and the others closed?—My business has been increasing. It has increased because of the Insurance Act.

Can you show a single prescription for January 8?—I have not brought the prescription-book here.

Did you take the name and address of a single person who came in within half an hour of the inspector coming in?—No, I did not.

Mr. Deacon found the charge proved. He was satisfied that the defendant had not observed the requirement that medicine should be sold only in case of existing illness, and that he had not complied with the order. He imposed a fine of 20s., and 25s. for advocate's fees.

Wednesday, January 30, was the last day for intimating to the Magistrate that the defendant desires a case to be stated for appeal; and an application had been lodged on behalf of the defendant on the previous day. In the meantime, communications with the Drug Trade Appeal Fund have been entered into, but the Secretary is not yet in a position to make any statement regarding the action of the Trustees in the matter.

BANKRUPTCY REPORTS.

Re William Desmond Noble, Shardeloes Road, Brockley.—The public examination of this debtor took place at the London Bankruptcy Court on January 24, before Mr. Registrar Brougham. A statement had been filed showing gross liabilities 362*l.*, of which 359*l.* was expected to rank for dividend. The assets were estimated to produce 45*l.*, from which 2*l.* 16*s.* had to be deducted for the claims of preferential creditors, payable in full, leaving the net assets at 42*l.* 4*s.*, with a deficiency of 317*l.* On the application of Mr. Williams for the Official Receiver, an adjournment was granted until February 21, it being stated that the Court was being asked to rescind the receiving order.

Re William Migge, 10 Eastcheap, E.C., Proprietary Medicine Vendor, trading as "The Leciform Co."—This debtor attended before Mr. Registrar Brougham on January 24 at the London Bankruptcy Court for public examination upon accounts—total liabilities 6,401*l.* 3*s.* (unsecured 6,136*l.* 3*s.*), and net assets valued at 33*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, after providing 74*l.* for payment of the preferential claims. Full particulars of his trading as the Antineurasthin Co. and otherwise were reported in the *C. & D.*, 1912, II., 536. Debtor attributed his insolvency to loss in trading, due, largely, to heavy advertising expenses, and to his household and personal expenditure, but the principal cause of the failure was the fact that the sale of Antineurasthin in Australia was ruined in 1910, the manufacturers having supplied the preparation in a state unfit for consumption. The examination was concluded.

BIRTHS.

HAYES.—At Edmondstown Park, Rathfarnham, co. Dublin, on January 18, the wife of William Hayes (director of Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson, Ltd.), of a son.

LOYD.—At 109 High Street, Cheltenham, on January 27, the wife of H. B. Lloyd, pharmacist, of a son.

TAYLOR.—At the Medical Hall, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, on January 23, the wife of James Taylor, Ph.C., of twin daughters.

MARRIAGES.

DOUGLAS-HIGGS.—At St. Mary's Church, Mortlake, on January 25, Robert William Douglas to Dorothy Florence Higgs, eldest daughter of Mr. Alfred Higgs, J.P., Kingston-on-Thames, President of the County of Surrey Pharmacists' Association.

MCGEORGE-LOW.—At Mombasa Cathedral, on December 28, 1912, by the Rev. G. W. Wright, Richard McGeorge, chemist, Nairobi, British East Africa, to Elizabeth, second daughter of the late Mr. C. Macrae Low, Aberdeen.

YAGMOUR-HAWARA.—At Ramleh, Egypt, on January 25, Antoun Yagmour to Mathilde, daughter of Nicholas J. Hawara, pharmacien, Bulkeley, Ramleh.

DEATHS.

BROCKBANK.—At Southport recently, Mr. Ellwood Brockbank, chemist and druggist, late of Settle, where he was a principal of the firm of Messrs. John Tatham & Son, Ltd., aged seventy-one. Mr. Brockbank, who was in business prior to 1868, became assistant at Settle in 1856, and ultimately became a partner. He was a leading member of the Society of Friends, of which body he was an accredited minister.

DAWSON.—At Stanley Lodge, Warwick Road, Upper Clapton, London, N.E., on January 22, Mr. Oliver Robert Dawson, Ph.C., formerly in business at Southampton, aged sixty-eight. The funeral service was held at St. Matthew's Church, Upper Clapton, on January 27, the interment taking place at Southampton.

GOWANS.—At Bournemouth on January 23, from acute pneumonia, Mr. David Thomas Gowans, son of the late Mr. James Gowans, chemist, Perth.

HESTER.—At 28 Bromham Road, Bedford, on January 23, Mr. Chas. Hester, chemist and druggist, aged seventy-nine. Mr. Hester, who had long suffered from asthma, was a native of Bedford. He carried on business for a long period in St. Loyes, Bedford, and on his retirement a few years ago, was succeeded by Messrs. Taylor, Brawn & Flood, Ltd.

MCADAM.—Recently, at Douglas (I.o.M.), Mr. Andrew F. McAdam, aged fifty-two. Mr. McAdam, who was a Glaswegian, began his commercial career with the New Apothecaries' Co., Glasgow. In 1885 he took up an appointment with Geo. Walker & Son, manufacturing chemists, Glasgow. He represented this firm in Ireland, with headquarters at Dublin, for many years. Increased deafness compelled him to retire, and he has for some years past been proprietor of a Silvercraig's Hotel, Douglas.

MACFADYEN.—On January 22, at Margate, Mr. James J. Macfadyen, formerly of Upper Norwood, and of Park, Macfadyen & Co., West India merchants, 25 Lime Street, E.C., aged sixty-two years.

McMILLAN.—At Harrogate on January 23, Mr. Allan McMillan, chemist and druggist, 23 Regent Parade, Harrogate, aged thirty-four.

MITLACHER.—At Vienna on January 15, from pneumonia following influenza, Professor Wilhelm Mitracher, aged forty. Mr. Mitracher was a most distinguished pharmacologist, and was a member of the International Committee on Toxic Drugs. He was born in Vienna in 1872, and studied at Innsbruck and Vienna from 1890 to 1896, studying medicine at the latter University. From 1893 to 1896 he was Demonstrator at the Vienna Pharmacological and Pharmacognostic Institute. In 1896 his University made him a Doctor of Therapeutics. In 1899 he became assistant at the above Institute, in 1903 was made Lecturer of Pharmacognosy, and in 1909 was appointed extraordinary Professor of the subject. He had paid special attention to the cultivation of medicinal plants, and had done some excellent work on belladonna and similar drugs. He was a prolific writer on materia medica, his best work being the "Pharmacognosy" volume of the "Oesterreichisches Lehrbuch für Aspiranten der Pharmazie." His latest publication was a systematic review of the medicinal plants and drugs found in all the States of Europe, Japan, and the United States of America. All who have had the opportunity of watching Dr. Mitracher's work recognised in him a new force in materia medica, and his early death is a distinct loss to the science of pharmacognosy.



DR. MITLACHER.

NESBITT.—On January 25, suddenly, at his home, Mona Lodge, Sunninghill, Walter Hardy, youngest son of the late Alexander Nesbitt, aged forty-nine years. Mr. Nesbitt was a partner in the firm of Messrs. Beresford & Co., 6 Mincing Lane, E.C., who, as wharfingers at St. Olave's and Pickle Herring Wharves, are very well known in the drug-trade.

O'NEILL.—At Liverpool, on January 25, Mr. Frederick Hill O'Neill, town representative of Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., aged thirty-seven. Mr. O'Neill had been with Messrs. Evans for over twenty-five years, starting as a boy and working up to be head of the town department. Owing to lung trouble, which began some few years ago, the directors sent him on a tour to the West Indies and to their island of Montserrat. This improved his condition, and as he was advised to follow an open-air mode of living, he became town traveller. His breezy manner made him many friends amongst chemists.

WESTMINSTER WISDOM.

The Week in Parliament.

THE SHOPS ACT.

Mr. Kellaway asked the Home Secretary on Monday if his Department is responsible for the confusion and consequent injury to trade which has been caused in London with regard to the administration of the Shops Act, and Mr. McKenna replied that his Department is not responsible for local administration. He understood that the County Council, who have been in communication for some time past with the Borough Councils on the question of the desirability of delegating certain of their powers, have now decided to undertake the whole administration of the Act themselves.

The Home Secretary is being pressed to appoint a Departmental or other Committee to inquire into the working of the Act.

THE CELLULOID DANGER.

Some very remarkable testimony has been placed at the disposal of the members of the Home Office Committee which is considering the whole question of the storage, manufacture, and use of celluloid articles, by the chiefs of various Fire Brigades in some of the large cities of the United Kingdom. In one instance it was reported that an investigation led to the discovery of no less than two million feet of cinema films stored in close proximity to a public hall accommodating nearly two thousand persons. In another case there was evidence that a fire had been caused by the action of the sun's rays upon a box of celluloid combs exposed for sale in the windows of a hairdresser. The vast bulk of the testimony which has been adduced goes to show that there is urgent necessity for the imposition of restrictions of the most drastic character, and that there is also need for the preparation of a register of all premises where the manufacture of celluloid articles is carried on.

INSURANCE ACT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CHEAP DRUGS AND BANDAGES FOR INSURED PERSONS.—As announced in the *C. & D.*, January 25, the Marquess of Tullibardine, M.P., asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury in the House of Commons on January 23 a series of questions on this subject, which, with the answers, we append:

Whether in Scotland a special cheap line of drugs and bandages is being manufactured wholesale for the use of retail chemists on the National Insurance Act panel, and that chemists have to stock goods much inferior to those they have been accustomed to deal in; and whether the right hon. gentleman will give directions that thoroughly good materials only will be used?—Mr. Masterman: So far as I am aware, there is no foundation for the suggestion in the first part of the question. Every chemist is required, by the terms of his agreement with the Insurance Committee, to supply drugs of good quality. It is the duty of every Insurance Committee to see that this condition is strictly observed, and if the noble Lord can inform me of any instance in which drugs of inferior quality are being supplied to insured persons by chemists on the panel, I will immediately communicate with the Insurance Committee concerned.

Marquess of Tullibardine: Is the right hon. gentleman not aware that there is a special quality of articles now being sold under the description "Insurance quality"—such as bandages two yards short and of inferior material, of so-called "absorbent wool" at 10½d. per lb., whereas the ordinary quality costs 1s. 8d. per lb.; and is the right hon. gentleman aware that boracic lint is supplied at half the ordinary price, the weight being made up by extra boracic?—Mr. Masterman: That statement is similar to a good many that have been made.

Marquess of Tullibardine: May I show the right hon. gentleman a specimen?

DOCTORS' DRUGS.—Replying to Mr. Bridgeman, who put a question regarding the capitation payment of doctors who are permitted to supply drugs, Mr. Masterman said that medical practitioners in such circumstances would receive three-seventeenths in respect of drugs and fourteen-seventeenths in respect of medical attendance and treatment, making a total capitation fee of 8s. 6d. In addition, each would receive his proportionate share of the sum, equal to 6d. per head per annum of all insured persons entitled to obtain medical attendance from prac-

tioners on the panel in respect of the domiciliary treatment of insured persons suffering from tuberculosis, making a total of 9s. in all.

DISPENSERS.—Mr. Masterman, replying to a number of interrogatories, said the Act gives effect to the pledge given on August 2, 1911, that no persons should become disqualified for dispensing medicines through the passing of the Act. The conditions under which persons are allowed to arrange with Insurance Committees to supply medicines requiring dispensing to dispense medicines for other persons and firms who are supplying them, and to supply drugs not requiring dispensing, are laid down in explicit terms in Section 15 (5) of the National Insurance Act, and the Commissioners have no power by regulation to vary that section.

This is substantially the reply to questions regarding the position of persons who have dispensed for doctors, but who did not occupy that position when the Act passed, and consequently are excluded from the privilege of dispensing Insurance prescriptions. Another case put by Mr. Touche was that of

J. P., brought up in a chemist's business, passed the Pharmaceutical Preliminary examination, had a twelve-months' course at a college of pharmacy in Manchester, and had done other things, but is not legally qualified.

Mr. Masterman's reply disposes of all the questions, but they may recur, and they have, as the following shows:

Mr. Touche, returning to the subject, inquired if the right hon. gentleman is aware that since he asked a single question on the subject he had received heaps of letters from people who say—

The Speaker: It is impossible for the right hon. gentleman to answer as to the letters received by the hon. member.

Mr. Masterman, replying to Mr. Worthington Evans, said no qualified dispenser is deprived of his living under the Act, and not only that, but a large number who are not qualified get special qualifications under particular clauses.

Mr. Worthington Evans: Has the right hon. gentleman looked into the facts stated in the question? Is he aware that men who have been dispensing for twenty years are now deprived of their living under the Act?

Mr. Touche said he did not understand the effect of the right hon. gentleman's reply to No. 31. Would he tell him if a man who has been a dispenser for doctors for ten years, and who was running a drug-store at the time of the passing of the Act, is now in a worse position under the Act than a man who has been a doctor's dispenser for the three years preceding the passing of the Act?

Mr. Masterman said if the hon. gentleman would look at the sections to which he had referred him he would find that he had received a full answer.

On Thursday, Mr. O'Grady asked a series of questions covering similar ground regarding the "monopoly" of members of the Pharmaceutical Society. Mr. Masterman gave similar answers, and also stated that the Leeds Insurance Committee are inquiring into the adequacy of the local panel of chemists.

DOVERCOURT.—Replying to Mr. Newton on January 23, regarding "the only name upon the panel of chemists for Dovercourt, Essex, was the name of a gentleman who is not a chemist,"

Mr. Masterman said that he was informed by the Essex Insurance Committee that the person referred to is a qualified chemist.

SOME STATISTICS.—Mr. Masterman stated on Monday that the amount received in Health Insurance contributions up to December 31, 1912, was about 7,500,000. He has also stated that up to the present time the total expenditure of the Stationery Office on leaflets, cards, printed regulations, etc., in connection with both parts of the Act amounts to 127,000.

WEST BROMWICH PANEL.—Mr. Newman put a question to the Secretary to the Treasury on Tuesday regarding a midwife in West Bromwich, whose name is on the drug-panel, and Mr. Masterman replied that the person is on the list as willing to supply drugs (other than scheduled poisons and medicines which require to be dispensed) and appliances. He does not know whether this person is a registered midwife, but if she is, this would not disqualify her under the Act, nor, so far as he is aware, under any rule of medical etiquette, from supplying such articles to insured persons.

National Health Insurance.

Pricing Insurance Prescriptions.

In the process of printing the Winter Issue of the *C. & D.* last week the type of the heading to several of the columns of the Pricing Table was disturbed. We now reprint the heading, so that subscribers who desire to may affix it to p. 131.

Price to be charged for

Tariff Rate per ounce	$\frac{1}{4}$ oz. weight or 3ij. fluid	3ij. weight	3iij. fluid	3iij. weight	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. weight or 3iv. fluid	3iv. weight	3v. fluid	3v. weight	$\frac{3}{4}$ oz. weight or 3vj. fluid	3vj. weight	3vij. fluid	3vij. weight	3viij. weight or 1 oz. Apoth. (480 grains)
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For general convenience we have had the table reprinted on a thick card to hang up, with the rules for pricing and examples on the reverse side. These cards can be obtained from our Book Department at 6d. each, or 7d. post free, or 5s. 6d. per dozen post free. We prefer to supply in quantities, and suggest that Secretaries of local Associations should get supplies for all the members. Special quotations will be given for parcels of 100 or more.

Prescription Pricing Problems.

E. B. H. (213/42), *W. J.* (213/33), and others.—The first three are revised pricings of last week's examples:

1. Sodii bicarb. 3iss. ... 3d. Ext. cascar. sagrad. liq. 3ij. ... 3d. Spt. ammon. co. 3iss. ... 1d. Spt. chloroform. 3j. ... 1d. Aquam ad 3viij. ... 1d. 3j. t.d.s. ... 1d. Dispensing-fee ... 2d. 6d.	3. Potass. iod. 3ij. ... 3d. Liq. arsenicalis mxxx. ... 1d. Aq. chlorof. ad 3vj. ... 1d. Sig.: 3ss. t.d.s. post cib. Dispensing-fee ... 2d. 6d.	4. Liq. plumbi, fort. mxxxvj. 3d. Spt. rectificat. mxxxvj. ... 1d. Tr. opii 3ij. ... 1d. Aquam ad 3vj. ... 1d. Dispensing-fee ... 2d. 4d.	2. Vin. ipeoc. 3iij. ... 1d. Tr. camph. co. 3iij. ... 1d. Pot. bio. 3ij. ... 1d. Syr. tolu. 3ij. ... 1d. Aq. ad 3viij. ... 1d. Dispensing-fee ... 2d. 7d.
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No. 4 is "*W. J.*'s" way of dispensing the lotion given on p. 130 last week, and pricing according to each of the ingredients used. We consider that the proper method is to price the preparation ordered—viz., *Lotio plumbi*—and not the three ingredients of that preparation.

A. B. C. (214/9) asks us to price the following:

5. Sodii salicyl. gr. x. ... 3d. Mitte iv. One every 2 hours. Dispensing-fee ... 2d. 2d.	6. Lin. albi 3iv. ... 2d. Dispensing-fee ... 2d. 4d.	7. The dispensing-fee of 2d. is to be charged for "Powders, mixed or weighed, up to and including $\frac{3}{4}$ doz." This may be overruled by the declaration at the beginning of the drug-list, "Where . . . powders included in this list are ordered uncompounded no dispensing-fee is charged"; but we think not.	8. Lotio. carbol. 3xx. 3d. or 3d. Dispensing-fee ... 3d. Poison-bottle ... 3d. 9d. or 9d.
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D. B. (213/1) submits the following three prescriptions:

9. Pil. blaud. ij. ... 3d. Strvchnin. hydrochl. gr. 120 3d. Acid. arseniosi gr. i. 3d. Fiat caps. mitte tal. xxxvj. Dispensing-fee ... 5d. 9d.	10. Emp. belladon. 12 by 7 in. Spread on red flannel. What should be charged for this? 10a. Emp. canthos 3 by 2. A proprietary plaster used as a blister, therefore charge 4d. fee plus value of the material.
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Pil. ferri is the tariff representative of *Blaud's pill*, and must be charged by the dozen rate. We presume that No. 10 plaster would be supplied from a roll of ready-made plaster, such as 1 yard by 7 in., costing 3s. The pricing itself is not provided for in the tariff (only for emp. bellad. on calico, which would be 3d.). Following the example of charging 33 per cent. on cost, as is the case being done in many districts for unlisted appliances, 1s. 4d. would appear reasonable to both the pharmacist and Insurance Committee.

11. Lin. bellad. meth. 3ij. ... 4d. Dispensing-fee ... 2d. Poison-bottle ... 1d. 7d.	12. Mist. guaiaci 3iv. ... 4d. Dispensing-fee ... 2d. 6d.
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M. W. (214/8) asks: Is dispensing-fee to be charged in both these cases?—It is. In this connection we quote a note that comes to us from *J. Mc. M.* (216/37).

J. H. L. (214/38).—See the above explanation.

There is a dispensing fee for all liquid preparations whether listed in tariff or not.

13. Bismuthi salicyl. gr. xliij. 1d. Phenacetin. gr. xliij. ... 1d. Caffeina cit. gr. xij. ... 1d. Ft. pulv. Divide in six. Dispensing-fee ... 2d. 5d.	14. Calomel. gr. ss. ... 3d. Sacchar. alb. gr. ij. ... 3d. Ft. pulv. Dispensing-fee ... 2d. 3d.	14a. Aspirin (acid. acetosalicyl.) gr. v. ... 3d. Caffein. cit. gr. ij. ... 3d. Phenacetin. gr. v. ... 3d. Ft. pulv. Dispensing-fee ... 2d. 3d.
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Q. E. A. (142/21) asks the correct charge for No. 13. He also points out that bismuth carbonate 3ij. for 3d. works out at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz., a less rate for a small quantity than a large one. Similarly, sodium salicylate (3iij., 1d.), potassium iodide (3ij., 3d.), and glycerin (3iij., 1d.). He asks: Is this intended? [The pricing is a matter of fact, not intention, the "nearest 1d., whether up or down," being the agreement.] The charge for potassium nitrate 3ij. is 1d.

G. P. G. (142/19).—The dispensing-fee for one compounded powder helps to balance the loss on half-dozens.

15. Suppos. morphinae gr. j. 1s. 1d. Mitte xij. Dispensing-fee ... 6d. 1s. 7d.	16. Urotropin gr. vij. ... 1s. 0d. Ft. pulv. in cachet. Mitte xxiv. Dispensing-fee ... 6d. 1s. 6d.
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S. M. B. (213/32).—The suppositories are not B.P. (1s. 3d. doz.), so dispensing-fee is charged. *Ol. theobrom.* (2s. 8d. lb.) is charged 1d., and morphine hydrochloride at 1d. per grain.

F. O. (214/34).—The cachets require 168 gr. of urotropine (2s. 1d. per oz.), which, plus 1s. equals 2s. 11d. per apothecaries' ounce; the charge for 168 gr. is exactly 1s. 0d. For twenty-four weighings 4d. is allowed and 2d. for twenty-four cachets.

17. Mist. pepsin. co. c. bism. (Hewlett) 3ij. 1s. 9d. Ext. casc. sag. arom. (P. D. & Co.) 3j. ... 5d. Liq. opii sed. (Battley) 3ij. ... 5d. Aquam ad 3viij. ... 1d. M. Sig.: 3ss. nocte maneque. 2s. 8d.	18. Lin. camph. ammon. meth. 3ij. ... 3d. Dispensing-fee ... 2d. Poison-bottle ... 1d. 6d.	18a. Glyc. ac. carbol. 3j. (1-20) 2d. Dispensing-fee ... 2d. Poison-bottle ... 1d. 5d.
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W. K. (142/20).—The wholesale prices used for the proprietaries are 10s. 6d., 5s. 4d., and 21s. 8d. per lb. respectively.

A. E. D. (210/63), who sent No. 18, also asks if boric lint or cotton-wool, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb or $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., should be charged at pound or ounce rate. [There is nothing to prevent these being charged at the ounce rate (especially the smaller amount),

considering that it is necessary to break bulk. Our correspondent's drug-list is one of those referred to in reply to "G. T. E." below. The liniment contains over 5 per cent. of free ammonia, therefore requires a poison-bottle, and is to be charged to the Insurance Committee.]

19.	20.
Elixir acetomorph. et pini	Tr. iodi 5ij. ... 1d.
(Codex) 5ij. ... 9d.	M.d.u. ...
Dispensing-fee ... 2d.	Dispensing-fee ... 2d.
11d.	3d.
	Pil. hyd. subchlor. ij. ... 1d.
	One alt nocte.
	Dispensing-fee ... 3d.
	4d.

D. D. (213/60).—The wholesale price for the elixir is 3s. 2d. per lb., or (divide by 9) 4½d. per oz.

A. C. (213/61).—The pills are charged ½d. for calomel and ½d. for mass. If pil. hydrarg. subchlor. co., B.P., is wanted, no dispensing-fee is allowed.

G. T. E. (213/50) writes that in his drug tariff he finds under "Lints": Boric, 1s. 3d. per lb., ½d. per oz. He asks if the 1d. has not dropped out before printing. He suggests that something similar has occurred in the case of oxymel scillæ, ½d. oz. [One tariff which we have gives 1½d. per oz. for the lint, and in another this charge appears as ½d. Oxymel scillæ is quoted ½d. Our correspondent points out that syr. scillæ is 1d. per oz., although cheaper by wholesale. P.S.C.I., please note]

F. W. S. (143/13) asks how to charge for INF. SENEGÆ CONC. 3iv. in 8-oz. mixture. [2d. for this quantity of concentrated infusion at 3s. 4d. per lb. or 3½d. oz., and 1d. for distilled water (over 6 oz.)—total 3d. If the equivalent of ordinary infusion is used and charged, the price would be 1d. for the infusion and ½d. for water 3iv.—total 1½d.]

G. W. H. (216/5) points out that "sp. rect." is on the tariff, and 3iv. is 2d., not 2½d., as we said last week. [Peccavimus!] He asks: Would you regard a mixture containing creosote as an emulsion, and charge as such? [Yes, if emulsified.] He adds: The doctors here are ignoring the pink form; they are trying to keep inside the tariff, but an occasional non-tariff item crops up. Seeing they are so rushed with signing tickets there is no remedy.

F. C. B. (205/10).—Your query was anticipated by last week's article on Computation.

T. N. (213/11).—A 1s. 1½d. bottle of Scott's Emulsion should be charged P.A.T.A. minimum price—i.e., 1s.; if 33 per cent. profit were added (as has been suggested), the charge would be 1s. 1½d. (i.e., 13.66d.). You will find the price of ext. malti c. ol. morrhue in the list.

C. & O. (215/30) wants to know if a dispensing-fee may be charged for each of the following: Emul. ol. morrh. B.P.C., ext. malti c. ol. morrh. B.P.C., ol. morrhue, and ext. malti. [We do not consider that extract of malt and cod-liver oil and extract of malt should be regarded as liquids, as they are tariffed by the pound, and solids by weight is the rule; hence no dispensing-fee may be charged. This is apart from physical considerations. The dispensing-fees provided for liquid preparations and emulsions may be charged in respect to the emulsion of cod-liver oil, but not in respect to cod-liver oil itself, because it is not, strictly speaking, "a preparation."]

M.P.S. (216/4) has read with great interest our editorial on pricing prescriptions, and wants to know if 1d. should be charged for 64 minims of liq. strychnine hydrochlor. and 1d. for 32 minims of spt. chloroform. [No; ½d. in each case, that being the nearest ½d. Any prescription containing tr. gent. co., or any other official or unofficial preparation not mentioned in the drug-list, should be written on the pink form.]

W. T. (216/1) asks how HOMŒOPATHIC PREPARATIONS should be priced—c.g.:

1. Pil. belladon. 1x 5ij. Two pilules to be taken three times a day. [This is a case for arrangement with the Insurance Committee. Homœopathic pilules are probably not regarded as being covered by any of the items in the drug-list, as they may not be "pills" in the ordinary sense of the word, and the tariff does not provide for charging pills by weight. We would suggest that the charge should be the ordinary wholesale rate, plus 33 per cent.]

2. Trit. merc. biniod. 3x. 5iv. Three grains to be taken night and morning. [If this means that the triturate (which is a powder within the meaning of the tariff) is to be divided into 3-grain powders, charge on the ordinary basis for the constituents of the triturate, plus the dispensing rate for powders.]

3. Silicia 30 5ss. Gtt. v. t.d.s. [This is a mixture, or liquid preparation, and is to be charged with reference to

the wholesale cost of the ingredients in silicia, plus 2d. for dispensing.]

4. Bryonia 5ss., aq. ad 5vj. 5ij. t.d.s. p.c. Phosphor. 4x 5iss., aq. ad 5vj. 5ij. t.d.s. a.e. [In these cases also the ordinary rules as to mixture have to be followed.]

Invicta (131/28).—Charge Lysol 5ij. on the basis of the wholesale price according to the tariff rules, plus the dispensing-fee 2d. For twenty proprietary pills charge 3d. per dozen (tariff rate), or 33 per cent. on the wholesale price.

PINK FORMS.—G. W. J. (218/7) and many others complain that doctors are not using pink forms for medicines that do not occur on the official list, which is not surprising.

"MIST. ALB."—What is this? asks G. W. J. (218/21). A mixture of this type: Mages. sulph. 5j., magnes. carb. gr. x., aq. ad 5j. pro dose. MIST. RHEI was also ordered by the same doctor. No doubt a rhubarb-and-soda mixture. See "Pharmaceutical Formulas" and C. & D. Diary, 1912, p. 230.

NOTES AND FORMULAS.

We annex a reduced facsimile of the title-page of the leaflet which we are now supplying to subscribers for distribution to Insurance Act prescribers. It comprises the formulas of the preparations to which the letters "B.P.C." are attached in the official drug tariff. The formulas printed in our issue of January 18 have been carefully revised and compared with the originals, which are also given, as many of them are well known to prescribers under the original names. The compilation should be of service both to prescribers and dispensers, and is of the size suitable for pasting in the British Pharmacopœia. The selection makes an eight-page leaflet (octavo size), and we supply them at 6d. per dozen (the cost of production), or 8d. post free.

INSURANCE DRUG TARIFF.

Notes and Formulas of Non-Pharmacopœial Medicines

contained therein.

For the use of
Prescribers and Dispensers

PUBLISHED AT
THE OFFICES OF THE "CHEMIST & DRUGGIST,"
42 CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Questions and Answers.

The following replies to correspondents are grouped here for convenience of classification.

STOCK MIXTURES.—C. E. (206/8) and other inquirers are requested to read the first editorial article in our Winter Issue, in which it is shown that the dispensing-fee is payable in respect to stock mixtures.

DRUGS AND MEDICINES.—C. J. (206/33) asks: "If a doctor orders such things as Virol, Panopepton, Sanatogen, or food-products on the special pink form, is the chemist to dispense them as drugs?" [No. The Insurance Committee are enabled by the Act and Regulations to provide insured persons with drugs and medicines, and the three articles mentioned are not legally in that category.]

PRESCRIPTION-FORMS NOT USED.—Middlesex (207/41) asks: "If repeat mixtures are written on a piece of paper, and not on the official prescription-form, will the Insurance Committee pass the account?" [It is not required to. When this happens the chemist should communicate with the prescriber, if possible, or take the risk of dispensing the mixture and getting the doctor to re-write the prescription on an official form.]

CHOICE OF DOCTOR.—C. J. (206/33) asks: "If a favourite doctor is chosen by three-fourths of the insured persons in his town, and other doctors a small proportion only, can the favourite treat all that come to him, or is he limited to, say, 2,000?" [Yes, if it is humanly possible for him so to do; but we dare say the Insurance Committee will soon find out that it is not, and will act in accordance with the powers which they possess.]

"AQUA," WHAT IS?—A. E. M. (209/1) and other correspondents ask whether distilled water should be used when the prescription ends with "Aquam ad," the word

"distilled" not being mentioned. [Yes, and charged for. We gave the reason last week, but arrangements are being entered into between some doctors and chemists to dispense tap-water, not charging for it. Such arrangements are legitimate, and not illegal, but otherwise the proper and legal course is to use distilled water and charge for it.]

Puzzled (215/45) informs us that he has interviewed several medical friends, and asked them what they mean when ordering "aqua" in a prescription; and their answer is that they mean tap-water, and would order *aquæ destil.* if they wished it to be used. Therefore "Puzzled" need not charge for the tap-water, although he is entitled to. This generosity will not cost him much.

DISPENSING DURING CLOSING HOURS.—*C. J.* (206/33) asks: "Must shops which shut up early, and entirely on Sundays, keep someone on the premises always to attend to Insurance dispensing in case of need—i.e., are 'shut up shops' ineligible to go on the panel?" [There is no compulsion in this matter at all. If chemists on the panel desire to dispense Insurance prescriptions at all times they must make arrangements in conformity with the Shops Act, which, however, does not apply to Sundays. The subject is dealt with in our editorial article.]

SUPERINTENDING DISPENSING.—*C. J.* (206/33) asks: "If a large business employs but one qualified man (whose time must be fully occupied with ordinary business), is he expected to be on at all times to superintend dispensing, or must the firm employ another qualified man?" [The contract entered into by the business with the Insurance Committee provides that the medicines shall be dispensed by or under the direct supervision of a qualified person, and it is for the owner of the business to see that the contract is conformed with. The circumstances mentioned in the question appear to make the condition impossible. Neglect to dispense or supervise the dispensing of prescriptions containing poisons is a Pharmacy Act offence.]

VISITS BY INSURANCE DOCTORS.—*J. J.* (214/24) asks: "If an indoor servant chooses a doctor, and the employer has an objection to him, can the employer refuse the doctor's visits to his house?" [This query raises a question of common law, and does not strictly relate to the Insurance Act at all. The Act does not appear to give a doctor authority to commit a trespass, so that the employer can refuse the doctor access to his (the employer's) premises, and if the doctor then enters he becomes a trespasser, and the employer is entitled to use reasonable force, if necessary, in ejecting him, and to sue him for damages. On the other hand, we advise the employer not to stop the doctor's visits without the strongest justification, and unless his servant can receive medical attendance elsewhere or by another doctor.]

POISON-BOTTLES.—*T. J. C.* (208/17) writes: "According to prescription-form of National Health Insurance, poison-bottles are only to be charged for 'Statutory poisons.' I had a lead-lotion to dispense, and naturally used a poison-bottle. Lead not being a statutory poison, how am I to be paid for the bottle? The tariff says poison-bottles are to be charged to Insurance Committee, and seems to be at variance with prescription-form. Incidentally, are all lotions and liniments not containing statutory poisons to be dispensed in mixture-bottles?" [The answer to the question is that a poison-bottle used for lead lotion is a medicine-bottle, and the insured person can be required to deposit its value, to be returned when the bottle is returned in a clean condition, and not until then. Insurance Committees are not authorised to pay for poison-bottles unless for statutory poisons, as stated.]

NON-DISPENSING PANEL.—*D. S. O.* (214/42).—So long as the official forms are used by medical practitioners for prescribing medicines, we are bound to regard them as prescriptions, the filling of which, so far as medicines are concerned, is dispensing as it is ordinarily understood. Consequently the terms of the Act, Section 15 (5, iii), exclude unqualified persons, such as drug-store keepers, on the drug or non-dispensing panel from dispensing these prescriptions—even for such things as boric ointment. Perhaps "meticulous" may be applied to this interpretation, but it is in accordance with practice, and is the interpretation of the law in Ireland, where the dispensing of medical prescriptions is confined to pharmaceutical chemists as distinguished from registered druggists. Until special provision is made by the regulations for the ordering of medicines from unqualified persons, we consider it illegal for them to dispense preparations, whether they require compounding or not.

REPEAT MIXTURES.—*Curious* (207/58). *Aqua* (208/57). *T. L. N.* (207/71), and other correspondents are anxious to know what they should do when the doctor writes simply "Repeat mist"? [We can only reiterate what we said last week, that in the meantime such prescriptions should be dispensed when the dispenser is quite certain what the doctor

means. This may not be in strict accordance with the letter of the Regulations, but it is the practice in Medicine and Pharmacy in this country, and the Commissioners and Insurance Committees have no desire to increase the burdens of those who are employed in the administration of Medical Benefit by quashing such a custom as the "repeat mixture" type. This is a well-established, a convenient, and not dangerous custom. We therefore repeat our suggestion that the prescriptions, when properly authenticated with the doctor's signature, should be dispensed, the ingredients of the mixture being written by the chemist, at his leisure, upon the part of the form that he retains, and when the account is rendered reference on the other form to the original prescription (which most probably will accompany it) should suffice for the auditors. Another plan would be to write the ingredients on the Committee's form.]

Dispensing Experiences.

Leeds.—A certain proportion of Leeds chemists and doctors are still working in most uncomfortable conditions of rush, but matters generally are quieting down. One doctor announces that he has found it necessary to employ temporarily a staff of eight clerks to deal with his book-keeping. The doctors are now sending more reasonable prescriptions; the average cost seems to be not more than 6d., though one prescription came to 4s. 6d. Over seven thousand prescriptions were dispensed by Leeds chemists in the first week of the Medical Benefit section coming into force, and it is calculated that the average number, when things get smoothly running, will be something like 10,000 a week in winter, reduced in summer, possibly, to about 7,000. The doctors have not yet commenced the special marking of urgency prescriptions, which would enable the chemist to obtain the after-hours' fee for prescriptions. West Riding doctors are making efforts to get the power of emergency dispensing at an extra rate of 6d. per time, which action is being keenly opposed by the West Riding Pharmacists' Association.

London.—Chemists are finding the Insurance Act a burden, says the "Standard" of January 25, one East End chemist telling a representative: "When you have thirty to forty persons in your shop at once, all demanding their prescriptions immediately, you naturally feel inclined to protest. The people who in the ordinary course of events would be content to leave their prescriptions and call again for the medicine now are exceedingly annoyed when we tell them that they have to be dealt with in turn. They seem to think that it is a Government business, which must be pushed through at once. These are the same people who don't mind waiting for an hour or more in a doctor's surgery—or perhaps that is the reason why they dislike waiting here. The trouble about insured persons is that they all come at the busiest time of the day—namely, the evening—and in a small shop it is no joke trying to attend to twenty people at once. The prescriptions, too, are often absurdly insignificant. If they have been a nuisance to doctors, they have been no less a nuisance to chemists."

Manchester.—"A General Practitioner" has written to the local "Daily Mail" complaining that some chemists have refused to accept Insurance prescriptions marked "rep't mixt.," saying: they have no time to look up the prescription from the large number they have on their files. Mr. J. C. Kidd, President of the Manchester Pharmaceutical Association, in an interview with a representative of the above newspaper, said he personally had never refused to dispense a repeat mixture, but this vague instruction caused much unnecessary trouble. If the medical men would put the date of their original prescription on the repeat order it would facilitate matters considerably, and also obviate the risk of the patient getting a medicine prescribed on another date. Our correspondent says this public notice seems to have due effect, as on the following day he received four repeat orders with dates indicated. The chemists in the working-class districts are very busy, and the number of prescriptions is steadily increasing. The unqualified drug-vendors, whose shops abound in these districts, have dispensed scores of scripts for which they cannot recover payment. Considerable confusion has arisen through some doctors writing prescriptions on the forms of the Lancashire Insurance Committee when Manchester forms should have been used. There are few late-fee prescriptions about. Doctors are forgetting to make these "urgent." One Rusholme chemist who had to make up an Insurance prescription at 2 A.M. had this done on the following day.

Nottingham.—A correspondent writes: I suppose we may now be said to have got into the swing of Insurance dispensing. In this district, I believe, the start has been made with wonderful smoothness, excepting such minor points as

ordering non-tariff appliances and non-tariff drugs on green forms, I know of no trouble. I have myself handled about fifty scripts each week, but I have heard cases of both much larger and much smaller numbers being dealt with per shop. The work itself has been extremely simple. I have had two ointments to make and one pink-script drug to obtain; all the others were either ordinary mixtures or stock pills and ointments; no powders to weigh. The larger part of the work comes in between 6 and 8 P.M., and is waited for, so that time is a bit rushed. I had one script on Sunday evening, but beyond that no out-of-hours work. A full line of solutions is a great aid. Bandages, etc., so far are dead "off."

Sheffield.—One of the problems facing local chemists is that the rush of insured persons occurs in the evenings between 8 P.M. and 9 P.M. On the weekly half-holiday, instead of opening in the evening for only one hour, many chemists are finding it necessary to be open from two to three hours. The number of insured people applying for medicines is steadily increasing, certain chemists averaging already from eighty to ninety a day. The sale of proprietary medicines is being prejudicially affected.

After-hours Arrangements.

Acton.—The chemists on the Acton and District dispensing panel have formed a rota for dispensing Insurance prescriptions on Wednesday evenings, the early-closing day; the hours are from 6 to 9 P.M. The rota came into operation on January 29.

Bootle.—A bold stand for late fees, in face of some opposition on the part of the local Insurance Committee, has resulted in the following arrangements:

Up to 9 P.M. dispensing-fee 2d. In case of powders, suppositories, pills, etc.

After 9 P.M. and before 11 P.M. (Saturday excepted), half-day holiday, Sunday, dispensing-fee ... 3d. 50 per cent. above fee.

Night dispensing after 11 P.M. to 7 A.M. ... 4d. 100 per cent. above fee.

Bury.—The local Chemists' Association have issued a notice stating that shops will be open on Sundays from 6 to 7 P.M. and on Tuesdays from 6 to 8 P.M. for dispensing. A rota of service has also been arranged.

Chelmsford.—An insured person who found a difficulty in getting a prescription made up on early-closing day has complained to his approved society, who have communicated with the Commissioners, asking whether some arrangement cannot be made for chemists to open for a short specified period after closing-time on the half-holiday.

Darlington.—It has been arranged that the doctors will leave all dispensing to the chemists, the latter remaining open half-an-hour later each day.

Derbyshire.—At the meeting of the Insurance Committee on December 24 Mr. C. W. Ridyard, Secretary of the Derbyshire Chemists' Association, again raised the question of an extra dispensing-fee after ordinary hours. He pointed out that Insurance Commissioners were willing to accept this principle. The Chairman (Mr. E. C. Barnes) said the resolution recently passed on the point was to stand for three months, and it was asking too much to rescind it already. Mr. Peacock observed that the Committee acted in a more parsimonious spirit than the Insurance Commissioners, and the resolution ought to be put right. The Chairman closed the matter by remarking that it would be premature to alter the present position.

Huddersfield.—The local Chemists' Association held a special meeting on January 28 to discuss arrangements for Insurance dispensing after closing-hours. Opinions were favourable to a rota being formed in each district. The matter was adjourned in order that further experience might be obtained. It was resolved to hold a special meeting on February 4 on the question of the pricing of Insurance prescriptions. A letter was read from the Huddersfield Insurance Committee announcing that an extra fee of 2d. for the dispensing of "urgent" prescriptions outside the ordinary hours of business had been granted.

London.—Parke's Drug Stores, Ltd., have decided to reopen from 7 to 9 in the evenings of early-closing days for Insurance dispensing purposes, also to open three hours on Sunday evenings. It is expected that Boots' shops will also open.

Newport (Mon.).—Chemists are to open on Thursday (the early-closing day) from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. for Insurance dispensing, etc.

Northampton.—A meeting of the Northampton Chemists' Association was held at Franklin's Hotel, Northampton, on January 21. Mr. F. C. Ashford (Vice-President) presided, and there were also present ten members and Mr. H. Rolie (Hon. Secretary). Mr. Ingle proposed that all

pharmacists (including qualified assistants) in Northampton should be invited to become members of the Association. This, on being put to the meeting, was carried without dissent. The question of a "late fee" for dispensing after hours to insured persons was discussed. Mr. Ashford said that it is impossible, as yet, to tell how events would turn out, as many people have not got their medical cards signed, and others have to wait hours for prescriptions; so that until the Act gets into complete working order it would not be fair to judge of its ultimate effect on chemists. It was agreed that no action should be taken in the matter at present.

Paisley.—Chemists have agreed that one chemist's shop should reopen on Tuesdays, in rotation, from 6.30 P.M. till 8 P.M. Dates were allotted by ballot up till April 15. Special cards have been printed, giving full information. Each doctor on the local panel will receive one of these cards, and every chemist has agreed to show a card in his window on Tuesdays. Mr. Horne, who began the arrangement last Tuesday, had a busy time, and it is evident that the arrangement will require to be permanent.

Pontypridd.—The following extra hours have been instituted by chemists: Thursdays, 6 P.M. to 8 P.M., and Sundays, 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Southport.—At a meeting of the Southport Pharmacists' and Assistants' Association on January 21 Mr. Righton was in the chair, and there were also present fifteen members. It was agreed that the sub-committee should interview the Insurance Committee to obtain permission to charge a special dispensing-fee of 3d. on any prescription marked by the doctor "Urgent," if presented on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday after 8.30 P.M., or before 8.30 A.M.; on Saturdays, after 9.30 P.M. or before 8.30 A.M.; on Sundays, any time except between 12 noon and 1 P.M. and between 8 P.M. and 9 P.M. It was also decided to forward 2l. 2s. to the funds of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee.

Dispensing and Drug Arrangements.

Bootle.—Mr. Harold Wyatt, Ph.C., has managed to get better terms for his Bootle confrères than for the neighbouring Liverpool chemists. The price of infusions is raised to 1d. per 3 oz. or part thereof. *Linum caten.* (4d. per lb.) has been inserted, and an all-round price of 4d. per dozen has been obtained "for all tablets in ordinary use," in addition to those on the tariff. The price of medicine and poison bottles has been increased to 2d. for all sizes up to 8 oz., and 3d. for over 8 oz. Poison-bottles up to and including 8 oz. are to be charged 2d. Additional items are: Fine carded tow, 9d. per lb.; oiled protective (paper), 1s. 6d. per yard, in place of oiled silk; holland (for packing splints, etc.), 4d. per yard.

Bradford.—So far as the chemists are concerned, arrangements are working very smoothly. At Allerton and Buttershaw there are no chemists, and the doctors are dispensing as well as prescribing there.

Derby.—A meeting of the Derby Chemists' Association was held at the Bell Hotel on January 22. Mr. C. W. Southern presided over sixteen members and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Walter Riley). The Secretary reported that all the members of the local association had joined the dispensing panel except one. Among the questions discussed were stock mixtures, the use of distilled water, and hours of business. The doctors are to be consulted about the water question.

Devon.—The sub-committee of the Devonport Pharmaceutical Insurance Committee (Messrs. A. J. Ancliffe (President), S. A. Perkins, W. M. Martin, and F. W. Broom) met the medical men at the Y.M.C.A. on January 22, when several suggestions to facilitate working Insurance dispensing were favourably received. The question of "repeat mixtures" was also discussed.—A chemist in a typical industrial centre in this county of about 3,000 inhabitants (roughly, 1,000 insured persons), with two doctors and one chemist, sends us the following details: 83 scripts charged at 1l. 14s. 11½d., cost 11s. 9d. Average selling-prices, 5d. each; profit 23s., including fees—2s. 3d. per day. Highest number in one day, 20. He says the percentage of scripts is much less than he expected, but, being practically single-handed, he is agreeably surprised.

Doncaster.—The local Association of Pharmacists have compiled and published "The Doncaster Pharmacopœia," which contains twenty-one popular stock mixtures. Readers interested in the same can obtain a copy, post free, for 7d. from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. W. Stiles, 2 French Gate, Doncaster.

Hull.—Complaints are being made by local chemists that some of the doctors on the panel are instructing their

patients to take their prescriptions to certain specified chemists.

Isle of Wight.—At the meeting of the Insurance Committee last week Alderman Fellows congratulated the pharmacists on the business-like manner they had dealt with insurance matters. Dr. Walker stated that in committee he had fought for division of the floating sixpence equally between medical men and chemists, but was unsuccessful. At present there is the same sort of peace that existed when the lamb was inside the lion.

Leamington.—A meeting of the Warwickshire Pharmaceutical Association was held at the Masonic Rooms, Leamington, on January 22, when Mr. W. J. Uglov Woolcock gave an address on the National Insurance Act and replied to inquiries. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Woolcock for his visit.

London Assistants.—At the private meeting of the Chemists' Assistants' Association at Newman Street, London, W., on January 23, Mr. W. J. U. Woolcock attended, and answered questions on the National Insurance Act.

London (W.).—Mr. C. T. Allen, President of the Western Pharmacists' Association, took the chair at a meeting of London chemists held on January 23 in the lecture-theatre of the Pharmaceutical Society, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C. There was an attendance of over a hundred. On the invitation of the President, Mr. E. White gave an address regarding the working of the dispensing arrangements of the National Insurance Act. Mr. E. T. Neathercoat then spoke, his speech consisting of answers to inquiries which he had received regarding difficulties. In the matter of stock mixtures, while there is no doubt that these have objectionable features, it may be necessary, after consultation with local medical men, to agree upon certain much employed mixtures. A dispensing-fee should be required for these. In the cases where doctors write simply "Rep. mist." it will be necessary for the chemist to write the formula on the prescription-form for pricing purposes. Reasons were also given as to why the drug-tariff does not include a larger list. The dispensing-fee for things outside the tariff was next discussed, and the reasons given why poison-bottles are to be paid for by Insurance Committees. Distilled water is always to be used when "Aqua" is ordered in a prescription. Care must be exercised in the supply of surgical appliances, as only those mentioned in the tariff will be paid for by Insurance Committees. The position was explained in regard to extra dispensing-fees, and as to the method of accountancy this has still to be decided by Insurance Committees. A form for accounts will probably be supplied, and monthly returns required. Mr. Neathercoat proceeded to answer questions put by the members, the following being some of the points raised: In the case of unsigned prescriptions, these should be returned to the doctor at a convenient time for signature. Then the question arose as to dispensing-fees for "Troch. sulph. co. xxiv."; a single powder, "Pulv. hyd. subchlor. gr. j.," without directions; and "Mag. sulph. 3j." There was some difference of opinion on this matter, and eventually it was suggested that a ruling should be obtained from the Insurance Commissioners. It was thought that in cases where the quantity of drug is below a certain number of grains a fee might well be charged. The use of the wrong colour prescription blank is a matter for arrangement with the doctor; a little tact will overcome the difficulty, but, said Mr. Neathercoat, remember that the interests of insured persons must not suffer. The incidence of the Shops Act was also raised, as well as the question of what price should be charged for proprietary medicines. Many interesting experiences were given, and it was nearly eleven o'clock before the meeting concluded.

Middlesbrough.—At a meeting of the local Insurance Committee on January 23 the Mayor (Mr. A. Mattison) observed that one of the finest features of the Act was the fact that the medical men would not dispense drugs. He also said the suspense fund was a temptation to the doctor not to give the patient the proper drug. He would very much like to see the 2s. drug-money promised to the doctors. The Chairman pointed out that the medical men did not anticipate that there would be any of the 2s. to spare.

Norwich.—A meeting of the Norwich Pharmaceutical Association was held in the parlour of the C.E.Y.M.S. Rooms on January 22, the President (Mr. Percy Robinson) in the chair. A letter was read from the Insurance Commissioners stating that they would sanction an extra dispensing-fee for those prescriptions marked "Emergency." This additional fee, however, should not in any case exceed 6d., and only applies to the provisional period. The Commissioners would not be willing that there should be a minimum charge of 2d. for any drug or chemical where no dispensing-fee is allowed. Further, they would not be prepared to approve the proposal that prescriptions for insured

persons should not ordinarily be dispensed during a specified hour in the afternoon. The meeting requested the President and Secretary to approach the Insurance Committee and press for a minimum charge of one penny for those prescriptions which do not carry a dispensing-fee. A complaint was received that a local doctor was not writing prescriptions, but said he preferred giving his patients medicine free of charge rather than have the trouble of writing them. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Clerk of the Norfolk Insurance Committee drawing his attention to the matter, and asking him to bring the matter before the Medical Benefit Sub-Committee. The question of a rota for the early-closing day being formed in Norwich was left to a later meeting. It was agreed that aqua destillata should be used in prescriptions and charged 1/4d. up to 8 oz. The same to apply to aq. camph. and aq. chlorof. The questions of 5iss. being charged at the 3j. or 1/4-oz. rate was then dealt with, and it was decided that where the tariff price for 1/4 oz. was lower than 5iss., the 1/4 oz. should be charged for that quantity. Also that 1/2 oz. should be the charge for 3iij. It was agreed not to advertise in connection with dispensing under the National Insurance Act.

Peebles County Insurance Committee intimate that the only chemist in Innerleithen refuses to go on the panel. At Walkerburn, two miles away, there is no chemist, and a large district is left unprovided for as regards the supply of medicine under the Act. The Committee are endeavouring to make suitable arrangements.

Stockton-on-Tees.—At a meeting of the Stockton-on-Tees Pharmacists' Association on January 21, Mr. J. M. Skilbeck in the chair, a report was given by Mr. T. Salmon of a meeting with the local doctors, when matters connected with Insurance dispensing were discussed. The doctors have agreed to supply medicine in urgent cases, which arise on Sundays and holidays, but it was suggested that perhaps the chemists would be able to arrange for attendance on the evening of the Thursday half-holiday. The question of stock mixtures was discussed, and the opinion expressed that the medical men did not wish chemists to lose the dispensing-fee. Information on this point is being obtained from the Insurance Commissioners.

Thames Valley.—A long discussion on insurance dispensing points took place at the meeting on January 23 of the Thames Valley Pharmacists' Association. A letter was read from Mr. Woolcock regarding the offer of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee to price Insurance prescriptions at 6d. per 100. The question of hours for dispensing Insurance prescriptions was fully discussed, and as regards obtaining drugs not ordinarily prescribed it was mentioned that a London wholesale house is supplying in small quantities proprietary mixtures to suit the convenience of any pharmacist. A review of the points that have arisen in dispensing was introduced by Mr. A. Higgs, J.P., who said he had received many inquiries from pharmacists concerning the question of stock mixtures. Certain doctors have given chemists the formulae of mixtures which they have used in their own surgeries for their patients, and had sent insured persons to these chemists to get their prescriptions dispensed. This, said Mr. Higgs, is entirely against the spirit of the Act, which gives insured persons free choice of chemist. Cases have occurred where trusses have been ordered by the doctor, and many of those present said they had received orders for articles other than those on the tariff. Mr. Higgs impressed on those present that the Insurance Committee have no power to pay for extra appliances.

Watford.—A meeting of the Watford Pharmacists' Association was held on January 22 at the Lime Tree Hotel, Watford, the President (Mr. C. E. King) in the chair. There were present fifteen members and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. D. W. E. Barker). Points of interest concerning the National Insurance Act were discussed, and the Hon. Secretary was instructed to write to the Medical Committee for an interview, at which difficulties could be discussed. A sub-committee was appointed for the purpose.

NOTES.

A circular from the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee, signed by Mr. W. J. U. Woolcock, offers to price English Insurance prescriptions at 6d. per hundred.

The Isle of Ely Insurance Committee has been allowed to appoint two whole-time medical practitioners (without limitation of private practice) for Wisbech and Chatteris respectively, where the panels were inadequate.

A firm of chemists in Liverpool who have not gone on the "panel" have circulated the whole of the medical profession locally to the effect that, although not on the panel, they are still supplying the best drugs and

dispensing prescriptions as heretofore, with pure chemicals and best ingredients.

Mr. F. W. Broom, Devonport, Hon. Secretary of the local Association of Pharmacists, has written to the local Press in reply to "Dispenser," who complains of the hardships of not being allowed to go on the panel. Mr. Broom points out that the position of unqualified compounders is improved under the National Insurance Act.

"John Gore," in writing to the "Liverpool Courier" of January 24, provoked the wrath of local chemists by his reference "'Tis indeed a poor prescription that does not allow the chemist to make the price of a farthing bottle over and above the profits he already pockets." This when chemists are supplying on the deposit system bottles costing 1½d. for 1d.! He was soon corrected.

PHARMACY INSPECTORSHIPS.

The Insurance Commissioners for England have changed the form of their acknowledgment of applications or letters addressed to them by chemists for appointments as Pharmacy Inspectors under the National Insurance Act. They now intimate that the positions under the Act have all been filled up, and any that may become vacant in the future will be subject to competitive examination conducted by the Civil Service Commissioners, and the nature of that examination has not yet been determined. This will perhaps keep chemists and chemists' assistants from bothering the Commissioners with communications which have to be read, and even that takes time. It is not difficult to fill up a busy man's day with reading and replying to letters alone, and even the Insurance Commissioners and their immediate assistants have other work to do than that.

TRADE-MARKS.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications must be stated on Form T.M. No. 7 (obtainable at Money Order Offices for £1) and lodged with Mr. W. Temple Franks, Comptroller-General, Patents Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned.

The figures in parentheses refer to the classes in which the marks are desired, for a list of which, with particulars as to registration, see "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," p. 444.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," January 15, 1913.)

"GALAFER"; for a food preparation (42). By Dr. F. Stohr, Raimundgasse 6, Vienna. 344,089.

Circular device with words "J. & E. ATKINSON, LIMITED, LONDON"; for perfumery, etc. (48). By J. & E. Atkinson, Ltd., 24 Old Bond Street, London, W. 347,353.

"MACMILATUR" in facsimile; for all goods (48) and for manicure sticks (50). By MacMillan & Arthur, 35 Basinghall Street, London, E.C. 347,815/823.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," January 22, 1913.)

Device of corn-field with sun and letters "B. D. R."; for radio-active fertilisers (2). By Banque du Radium, 13 Rue Vignon, Paris. 347,740.

Octagonal device with serpent and word "MOLYFORM"; for medicated goods (3). By Alwin Nieske, 10 Bautzner Chaussee, Dresden. 344,977.

"NOTOX"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By Land & Co., 10 Market Place, Coalville. 347,337.

"SEDOBROL"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By The Hoffmann-La Roche Chemical Works, Ltd., 7 and 8 Idol Lane, London, E.C. 347,485.

"KENCONA"; for medicated wine (3). By Kennaway & Co., 13, 3 Palace Gate, Exeter. 347,779.

"KEPTO"; for ointments and lotions (3). By H. J. Salmon, The Homestead, Salters Lane, Woodley, near Stockport. 347,851.

"DELEGON"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By The Bayer Co., Ltd., 20 Booth Street, Manchester. 348,123.

"KENOLINE"; for all goods (3). By H. Leggott, 236 Beverley Road, Hull. 348,235.

Label device including portrait and words "BEEMAN'S PEPSIN GUM" ("Pepsin" disclaimed); for pepsin gum (42). By Tutti-Frutti Sen-Sen Co., Ltd., 56 Newcomen Street, Southwark, London, S.E. 344,524.

"TRICALCOL"; for food substances (42). By Dr. Walther Wolf & Co., B.m.b.H., Elberfeld, Germany. 348,304.

TRADE NOTES.

"BUSINESS INCREASERS."—Mr. Bernard Slack, 9 King Street, Wolverhampton, informs us that he has some entirely new projects about Insurance dispensing, about which he invites correspondence.

ENDOLYTIC TUBES FOR URINE-TESTING.—An opportunity for chemists to demonstrate these tubes to medical men is offered in our advertising columns by Messrs. E. J. Reid & Co., 17 and 18 Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

THE J. D. RIEDEL Co. inform us that owing to the increasing demand for their products, new factories have been built at Berlin Britz Riedel Strasse, Berlin, and that their works at 12-13 Gerichstrasse and factories at Gruenau, near Berlin, have been closed.

MESSRS. THOS. CHRISTY & Co. are relinquishing the agency of Messrs. Fred. Stearns & Co. and the New York and London Drug Co. as from February 1. Any communications in regard to the goods should be addressed to Messrs. Fred. Stearns & Co., 35 Snow Hill, E.C.

NEW COD-LIVER OIL.—The first new season's cod-liver oil to arrive this year is evidently the consignment received by Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., Liverpool and London. The company in their advertisement in this issue claim it as the "finest oil procurable."

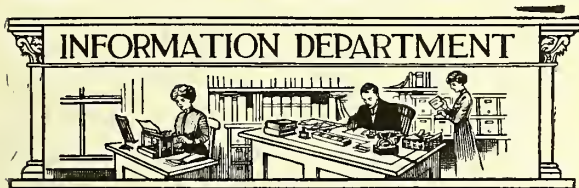
RUBBER SURGICAL APPLIANCES.—The indiarubber bandages and ice-caps required by the schedule of surgical appliances under the National Insurance Act are obtainable from Messrs. J. G. Ingram & Son, London Indiarubber Works, Hackney Wick, London, N.E., who advertise the fact in this issue.

PETOL.—Messrs. J. C. Gamble & Co., wholesale distributors to Petol (1912), Ltd., 20 Little Britain, London, E.C., remind chemists in this issue that the Petol products yield a profit to the retailer of 33½ per cent. Petol is put up in tubes, and a series of toilet-preparations accompany it. There is, it will be seen, a bonus given with 30s. orders.

INSURANCE PRESCRIPTION-BOOK.—Those who desire to copy in a book the Insurance prescriptions they receive to dispense should note that a specially ruled book has been produced by Messrs. Ford, Shapland & Co., 6 Great Turnstile, High Holborn, London, W.C. The book has 500 pages, and costs 6s. It was illustrated in the firm's advertisement in the Winter Issue.

BOVRIL BONUS.—Bovril, Ltd., 152 to 166 Old Street, London, E.C., have again inaugurated a scheme by which purchasers of certain amounts of bovril become entitled to a picture. The pictures are exchanged for a given number of coupons which are sent out with each package of bovril, the scheme being open until June 30. The pictures of which we have received copies are quite up to the high standard which these pictures have attained in previous years, having regard to the variety of subjects. The large picture entitled "Adoration," engraved from a painting by Frant Dvorak, measures 37 by 32 inches, but the actual size of the engraving is 25 by 20 inches. This is a charming picture of a child in its mother's lap receiving a wreath of flowers from another child attended by young girls. Coupons of a face value of 21s. are needed to obtain copies of this engraving. Alternative pictures of smaller size (30 by 22 in.) are "As Good as Ever," by A. J. Elsley, representing a blacksmith mending a child's hoop, and "A September Morning," by Sam Reid, a river scene. One of these is obtainable on presenting 12s. worth of coupons. The scheme is calculated to increase the sale of bovril still further, and bearing in mind the scientific claims of bovril, chemists can willingly participate in the extra business which will result.

The Lancashire Insurance Committee has reprinted the drug-list, with a few alterations, such as ½d. for 3 oz. (instead of 6 oz.) of the waters. It is also stated that appliances not mentioned in the tariff must be supplied at the prices mentioned in Maw's list, plus 25 per cent. profit.



Postal Address:

C. & D. INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Telegraphic Address: "CHEMICUS CANNON LONDON" (two words).

Telephone Number: BANK 852 (two lines).

INFORMATION WANTED.

Would any reader who knows people inform us by postcard or telephone of the names and addresses of the agents or makers of the articles mentioned in the following inquiries:

- 200/670. Vitalicon: suppliers.
- 211/70. "Iodogen": suppliers.
- 207/534. "Artist's" safety-razor.
- 216/33. Allen's "Oregon Herb".
- 200/67. Lactogen: British agents.
- 218/38. "Bentol": who supplies?
- 216/47. "Duroglandin": suppliers.
- 216/31. "Empire" vibrator: makers.
- 207/53. "Wigandia" perfume: makers.
- 210/450. "Big Tom" lemonade-crystals.
- 214/53. "Zerco" bellows (single bulb).
- 211/71. Crème Opaline (Badin): supply.
- 210/45. "Fettiche" perfumery: makers.
- 207/535. Austin's iodine inhaler: suppliers.
- 218/41. "Lait Gallia": makers or supply.
- 218/63. Clark's paste (for removing varnish).
- 218/40. "Crotal," a vegetable-dye, used by weavers.
- 200/671. "Fjord" brand cod-liver oil: proprietors.
- 216/49. "Toledo" spray syringe: makers or suppliers.
- 217/64. "Mandarin (Flora)," a skin preparation: made by "Johnson, London," put up in glass-stoppered bottles with sponge attached to stopper.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

During the past week we have answered inquiries as to where the following articles are obtainable wholesale. We shall be glad to repeat the information to others who send to this Department a stamped and addressed envelope for the purpose.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Albargin, 216/48 | Mason's lavender-water, 219/91 |
| Bonson's digestive tea, 207/32 | Mennen's talcum-powder, 208/380 |
| Borden's malted milk, 208/38 | Metal-polish tins, 207/53 |
| Bullock's pepsine, 216/35 | Moussmé perfume, 210/53 |
| Capping leather, 210/21 | Moskola, 211/72 |
| Chrimol, 216/50 | "Odoralas" perfume, 208/43 |
| Cocoa-butter substitute, 204/48 | "Odorine" dentifrice, 208/430 |
| "Conquest" belts, 207/51 | "Offord" hygienic truss, 213/23 |
| Cuticura soap, London agents (export inquiry), 216/32 | Oiled paper (makers), 210/61 |
| Damman's anti-diabetes, 214/44 | Opal pots, 210/610 |
| "Davidson" syringe, 215/65 | Paper bottles, 212/24 |
| Decorated tins (for samples), 145/4 | Perak merchants, 211/67 |
| Dietetic tea, 207/531 | Perfume - sprays (pump), 205/33 |
| Doyen's "Mycolsine," 209/10 and 214/52 | Perfumery labels, 206/45 |
| Dye wares, 209/62 | Peterman's roach food, 216/34 |
| Electric pocket-lamps, 213/72 | Potassium iodide (foreign), 207/12 |
| "Everfast" tooth-brushes, 206/62 | Powdered milk, 212/20 |
| Formalin liquid, 213/25 | Resorbin, 209/31 |
| Glycaphorm, 207/29 | Romozone, 207/530 |
| Gooch's splinting, 209/57 | Salinettes, 213/5 and 215/37 |
| Hearing apparatus, 206/5 | Sal prunella globules, 210/7 |
| Hermes liq. delphinine, 211/58 | Sand-blast apparatus (for India), 211/29 |
| Herrick's pills, 204/29 | Sanoform, 209/9 |
| Janos cloth-balls, 190/59 | Sharratt's fumigators, 214/62 |
| "Ixora" perfume, 207/530 | "Simplex" ice-bags, 208/430 |
| Lactogen, 210/45 | "Stickphast" cement, 214/43 |
| Laminaria digitata, first-hand supply (German inquiry), 200/24 | Suppository and pessary moulds, 214/30 |
| Leather wrist - straps (makers), 210/28 | Tablet makers (for fertilisers), 214/12 |

OBSERVATIONS & REFLECTIONS.

By Xrayser II.

Your Winter Number,

like Cleopatra in her barge, beggars all description. I have as yet been able only to glance through its varied contents, but in all its seventy-eight pages of literary matter I see nothing that does not demand attention and invite comment. The advertisements surpass those of all previous issues in attractiveness, and on the strength of them I call upon Mr. Courtenay to retract his recent declaration that the "lay-out" of American advertisements is superior to that of our English artists in this kind. But the feature which stands out above everything else in the number as of immediate and lasting value is your pricing-table for Insurance dispensing. I do not agree with those who hold that charging per dose would have been preferable to the system adopted, though it is true that the mere trouble would have been less, since it would have been *nil*. Your table, however, reduces the trouble to the minimum, and leaves little for us to set over against the advantages of pricing by cost. Pharmacists should be thankful, too, for being reminded that it is not necessary to price prescriptions as they are dealt with; the trouble will again be diminished by doing this *en masse*. It is astonishing how such work is lightened by repetition while the mind is fully occupied with it; one gathers speed, so to speak, in the process, and the memory attains its maximum activity.

Coca,

the first, and commercially the most important of the drugs dealt with in the interesting article in your Winter Number, was strangely neglected for at least two centuries after its first discovery by Europeans. First mentioned by an English writer about 1616, it seems to have attracted no attention among us until it was experimented with by Christison forty years ago, though its use among the natives of Peru was well known. In Withrington's "Natural History of the Spanish Indies" (founded on the observations of the Italian Ursino and others) it is several times mentioned, and there is a description both of the plant and the conditions of its cultivation. Nothing, however, is said of its uses, these being already known from the accounts in Purchas and elsewhere, but it is classed with fruits, not with drugs. Coca, says Withrington, "is a small green leaf growing upon a Tree about a fathom high," requiring "as much care in the Planting and Dressing as the leaf itself does in the keeping after it is gather'd; but it has the remarkable property that every 4 Months it comes forth with a fresh spring of those leaves." He adds that "'tis a very nice tender sort of a vegetable, and since it cost the lives of so many Men to manage it, the Spanish Doctors fell into hot Disputes whether it should be quite destroy'd or no." This loss of life he attributes partly to the arduous nature of the work required, and partly to the bad weather of the district in which it grew—that is, on the slopes and in the valleys of the Andes, and particularly about Lake Titicaca. Potosi and Cuzco are mentioned as the chief centres of the trade in it, the price at the former being four pieces of eight (worth about 4s. each) per basket; at the latter from two to three pieces. The annual turnover at Potosi he gives as above half a million pieces. I do not know when Withrington's work was first published, but it is included in Harris's "Voyages" (1705).



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Also RECTIFIED SPIRIT.

S.V.R.

Jas. Burrough Ltd. D.I. Cale Distillery, Hutton Road,
LAMBETH, S.E.

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London and Sydney.

Editorial Articles.

A New Epoch in Pharmacy.

V. Complication.

WHAT appears in the thoughts of many to be a growing barrier to the smooth working of Insurance Act dispensing is the incidence of the Shops Act, 1912. Some believe it to be a genuine complication, and in proof they cite the decisions of the Liverpool Magistrate. It must not be forgotten that the framers of the Shops Act, and especially the Committee of the House of Commons, were careful to ensure that the public should be able at any reasonable time to obtain medicines amongst other things. The conditions upon which exempted articles may be sold are provided by regulation, and the health interests of retailers of exempted articles are safeguarded by the statutory provision which enables them to obtain a closing order. The effect of such a closing order for chemists under Section 4 of the Act, without reference to the special provisions of Section 10, is to wipe out the exemption as regards medicines and medical and surgical appliances, and to place upon the retailers of these during closing hours the onus of proving that the articles are required in the case of illness. This is illustrated in the Liverpool case, which we report more fully this week. There the magistrate has ruled that the retailer must ascertain before he sells an article that an illness exists to be treated, and he ignores the fact that the article sold is a medicine—i.e., something for the prevention, cure, or relief of an ailment. We submit that this latter consideration is reasonable ground for believing that, e.g., cod-liver oil emulsion is required in the case of illness, but there are differences of legal opinion on this point, and it may yet have to be determined by the High Court, as the Secretary of State has not power to interpret the terms of the Act in such a way as to make it binding. As the law is interpreted by the Liverpool magistrate, no chemist in Liverpool areas affected by the Closing Order can keep his shop open during the closing hours of the half-holiday in order to receive and dispense Insurance Act prescriptions, but there is nothing in the Act to prevent such Liverpool chemists shutting the shops and intimating by placard or otherwise that a qualified chemist is in attendance to dispense the prescriptions on ringing the bell or knocking at the door. But it is to be clearly understood that the act of dispensing and serving the medicine to the customer in the shop is, strictly speaking, an offence, and all that Section 4 (7) does is to provide the defence if any action is taken against a chemist. We presume the magistrate would consider

an Insurance Act prescription to be reasonable ground for belief that the article supplied was required in the case of illness, but another magistrate might require proof of every little thing, and might not be disposed to rule that the attendance of a medical man upon an insured person and giving a prescription are proof of illness. It is a rational surmise, not strict proof of fact. By Section 10 of the Act there is none of this complication with regard to dispensing on early-closing days, and the provisions of the Act are working quite satisfactorily in thousands of chemists' shops throughout the country where no closing order has been made. The chemists close in such a manner as to enable most of the staff to have their half-holiday, while the regulation notices, such as we print, are exhibited inside and outside the shops, so that if medicines and medical and surgical appliances are required they may be supplied. In such cases the whole onus placed upon chemists is that the articles which they sell are medicines and medical and surgical appliances, and they have not the onus of proving that they are required "in the case of illness." As it is most desirable that chemists should have as much freedom as possible in dispensing Insurance Act prescriptions at all times, it will be noted that the complication of the Shops Act can only exist when chemists deliberately and of their own initiative move under Section 4 to have the exemption provided by the Act suspended by a closing order. We know that in the few cases in which such orders have been obtained the objects were mainly to ensure uniformity of practice in particular districts, and it is most desirable that that should be continued. It is scarcely to be expected that closing orders of the same nature will be sought for henceforth, and we again call attention to the special provisions of Section 10 as regards "mixed shops," so that full use may be made of these provisions by having conditions specified in the order which will preclude the possibility of local authorities placing upon chemists the onus of proving that exempted articles which they have sold are required in the case of illness. We understand that the authorities have no power to make closing orders under Section 10, as they must be made under Section 4, but all that we ask is that the provisions of Section 10 may be taken into consideration when drafting the terms of the order under Section 4. We again call attention also to the fact that the latter section, so far as chemists are concerned, applies only to shops in which medicines and medical and surgical appliances only are sold. Chemists' shops are "mixed" almost without exception.

Cascara Sagrada.

RODNEY H. TRUE, Ph.D., of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture, has been investigating the contributions of America to the world's materia medica, and has lately dealt in a pamphlet with cascara sagrada, which is reprinted in the "Pharmaceutical Era." He deals briefly with the commercial history of the drug, about which much has already been written, but with changing conditions as regards sources of the bark during the past decade or so, one or two facts deserve emphasis. Formerly Northern California and Oregon supplied the market, but as the price of bark fell, and the distance of the supply from points of transportation increased, the results were not sufficiently profitable, and the more convenient supplies of Washington State were drawn on to an increasing degree. It would now appear that the centre of gravity for the cascara business is now in that State, while interest concerning

the supply to be found in British Columbia is beginning to develop. There is, therefore, a prospect of cascara becoming a British drug, and the question of the northward extent of the range may have a very important bearing on the future of cascara. Dr. True states that the tree is reported as far north as the northern end of Vancouver, and, if abundant, should furnish a large new supply when transportation facilities are available. It will be remembered that in 1903 the price of cascara went up to about 90s., and this extreme figure led many to believe that wasteful methods of peeling had so far reduced the available supply of bark as to cause an actual shortage, but subsequent events have proved that, whatever the causes in operation might have been, the supply of cascara was not then seriously threatened. In fact, it may be said that the expected shortage threatened a decade ago has been postponed year after year, and the question arises as to whether the supply has not been underestimated. A careful study of the situation as it exists in British Columbia is evidently necessary to the clearing up of this problem. Meanwhile, if we are to derive supplies from that source in time to come, it would be thought that the scarcity of labour and the distance from the railroads would undoubtedly keep the cost of collecting high. On the question of labour, Dr. True states:

Other factors aside from that of supply influence the bark harvest. A considerable part of the bark supply is gathered by farmers and their families, homesteaders, and others who are able to take a part of their time from their ordinary employment for the gathering of bark. When conditions require the presence of the gatherers at home, or about their work elsewhere than in the woods, the price of the bark must feel the result. Thus the importation of labourers to San Francisco to rebuild the city after the earthquake was apparently reflected in the reduced quantity of bark peeled at that time and the consequent rise in price.

As regards exports from the United States no official statistics are available, and other sources of information leave much to be desired. Experts have come to the conclusion that from one-third to one-half of the total crop is shipped abroad. The United Kingdom is one of the largest consumers, and Germany is second, while a large quantity is also shipped direct to Australia. Last year proved very disappointing and unprofitable to most people handling the drug in a wholesale way on this side, and many who pinned their faith on information circulated by canned-goods houses and others found that the market persistently sagged during the second half of the year. This downward trend of prices, which is shown in the following table, was aggravated by frequent sales of parcels "without reserve" at the London auctions.

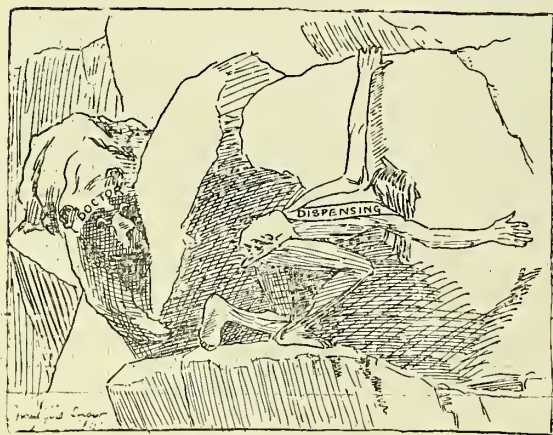
—	London Spot Prices	C.i.f. Prices	New York f.o.b. Prices
January ...	40s. to 42s. 6d.	38s.	9c. to 10c.
February ...	37s. to 42s. 6d.	37s. to 38s.	8½c.
March ...	36s. to 38s.	37s. to 38s.	8½c.
April ...	38s. to 42s. 6d.	37s. to 38s.	8½c.
May ...	39s. to 42s. 6d.	37s. to 38s.	8½c.
June ...	41s. 6d.	40s. to 41s. 6d.	8½c.
July ...	39s. to 42s. 6d.	41s. to 37s.	9c.
August ...	39s. to 42s. 6d.	35s. to 36s. 6d.	8½c.
September ...	36s. to 40s.	35s.	8½c. to 8c.
October ...	35s. to 39s.	34s. 6d.	8c.
November ...	32s. 6d. to 40s.	32s.	8c.
December ...	35s. to 40s.	32s.	8c. to 7½c.

Judging from the London monthly statement of drugs, it would appear that the turnover during 1912 has not been so large as that during 1911, the deliveries for the year being 145 tons, as compared with 173 tons in 1911,

or 28 tons less. On the other hand, the stock was 17 tons less at the close of the year, standing at 275 tons, as compared with 292 tons, while the landings for the year were 117 tons, or 37 tons more than in 1911. These figures, however, are only approximate, and do not reflect the actual statistics of consumption, as the purchases of several large users who buy direct at the points of collection or at New York are not included. Recent shipments which have been received in London in fulfilment of c.i.f. contracts have proved to be partly of inferior quality, and this has given rise to trouble.

As in a Mirror.

The extraordinary demand for assistants occasioned by the transference of dispensing from doctors to chemists under the provisions of the National Insurance Act is shown by the increased number of advertisements in the Coloured Supplement of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. This Supplement, which is a true mirror of the changes which are taking place in the drug trade, last week exceeded by a large number a previous record in advertisements, again proving that when assistants or situations are wanted THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is the first thought and natural resort of pharmacists. Good men are being promptly taken off the situations market, and but for the fact that there is a large number of doctors' dispensers ready for absorption, there would have been something like a famine in assistants. An attempt is being made in Parliament to represent that doctors' dispensers are being hardly used as a consequence of the National Insurance Act, but a glance through the numerous advertisements in our Coloured Supplement should be sufficient to dispel the idea, as the opportunities for employment are more numerous than they have been before in the present decade.



The Hunter.

(With apologies to J. C. Dollman.)

Now it wants all the skill of the hunter the claws of the Bear to evade,
For the beast is so hungry and angry, it would really be well to dissuade
All the braves of the Tribe of Dispensing to sit in their wigwams, and wait
Till their quarry is sleeker and calmer—for this one was nearly too late.

AN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY MEDICINE-VENDOR was the Honourable Dame Henrietta Hill, commonly called Lady Hill, who was a preparer and wholesale vendor of medicines in Curzon Street, May Fair.—*Pocket Magazine* (October 1796).

The New Drug Showrooms.

AS intimated in last week's issue of the *C. & D.*, the removal of the crude drugs from the Crutched Friars Warehouse to the Cutler Street Warehouses, London, is now an accomplished fact, and the reception and delivery of goods is taking place in the usual routine manner. Considering that over five hundred tons of drugs, comprising sarsaparilla, aloes, ipecacuanha, gamboge, myrrh, calumba, dragon's blood, essential oils, quinine, and so on, have been expeditiously removed and safely housed without incurring any expense to the owners, a word of praise is due to the officials of the Port of London Authority on the successful completion of their arduous task. By the courtesy of that body we are enabled to reproduce two illustrations of the new showrooms, which were taken on Wednesday, January 22, when the first "inspection" took place. The fog which prevailed on that day somewhat hampered our "one-eyed friend" (the camera) in the execution of his duty, but the pictures give a good general idea of the new quarters. Two of these photographs are reproduced on the following page. The first picture shows a fine display of Johore ipecacuanha and Sumatra benzoin; while on the extreme left Zanzibar aloes in skins is seen. The "show," however, was small, representing new goods only. There were quite a number of buyers present, and they were kind enough to stand while the exposure was made. Unconsciously they divided themselves into three groups, the centre one comprising Mr. Alfred Lambert (French & Plucknett), his market-clerk, Mr. Groom, they being nearest the foreground. Mr. Percy E. Anderson, drug merchant, of New York, and Mr. Henry Wheeler and Mr. Arthur Wheeler (Henry Wheeler & Son) are immediately behind. The group on the right includes Mr. Samuel Lambert (S. Lambert & Co.) and Mr. E. A. Smee (Sparks, White & Co., Ltd.), both with catalogues in their hands; Mr. J. B. Smith (Potter & Clarke, Ltd.), Mr. W. Benkert (a visitor from New York), Mr. Herbert Hymans, Mr. E. A. Webb (Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd.), Mr. J. Bamford Smith (Clarke & Smith), and Mr. James Weare (warehouse foreman) with the peak cap. The group on the left comprises the *C. & D.* representative in the foreground, Mr. G. Bult Francis (British Drug Houses, Ltd.), Mr. F. T. Dodge and Mr. A. O. Booth (Dodge & Olcott Co.), Mr. Cook (Welch & Horner), Mr. Gerald Gerhardt and Mr. Mysani (C. F. Gerhardt); and Mr. Varrall (warehouse manager), Mr. Meinertzhagen and Mr. S. Gordon are on the extreme right of the picture. The second photograph is a view of the rhubarb room, which immediately adjoins the heavy-drug room. This will also serve as an "overflow" when more space is required for the fortnightly display in the large room. The group of buyers shown is the same as in the first picture with the addition of Mr. J. W. Drysdale (who is the foremost figure) and Mr. H. J. Auburn, the rhubarb foreman. Under the guidance of Mr. Verrall (warehouse manager), a *C. & D.* man made a short tour of inspection of a part of the Cutler Street warehouses, which afforded a glimpse of the vast wealth which is stored in the City of London. It need hardly be said that drugs comprise but a very small proportion of the valuable products stored at the warehouses, which are the largest of the four establishments in the City district possessed by the Port of London Authority. The buildings are another relic of the East India Company, cover five acres of ground, and provide storage room for over 20,000 tons of goods. Tea is one of the principal articles stored, and considerable quantities are packed here into tins and packets of various weights for sale by dealers for export. Ostrich feathers are another important product stored, shown, and "worked" here, no fewer than nineteen large rooms being devoted to this single article, the stock of which represents 250,000; while the value of the feathers annually sold is about one million sterling. Valuable Oriental carpets, raw silk and cotton-piece goods (from China, Japan, and India), bird-skins, China-ware, and Japan-ware are among other products stored at Cutler Street.



DRUG SHOWROOM, CUTLER STREET, LONDON, E.C.



RHUBARB ON SHOW.

"Patents" Inquiry.

LAST week we reported the evidence which Sir Joseph Beecham gave on January 23 before the Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the sale of patent and proprietary medicines and medical preparations and appliances, and advertisements relating thereto. This week we deal in greater detail than was possible in our Winter Issue with the cross-examination to which Sir Joseph Beecham was subjected.

The Chairman: Would you desire to tell us anything about the origin of the formula of the pills?

Witness, with a smile, replied: That is too far back for me.

It is not within your knowledge on what medical authority this formula was first made up?—I have no idea; but as far as I remember there has been no change in the formula of Beecham's pills. I inherited it with the business.

Sir P. Magnus: Do you consider the analysis of Beecham's pills given in "Secret Remedies" is inaccurate?—It is inaccurate.

For the reason suggested by the Chairman: that there are other ingredients in it besides those mentioned in "Secret Remedies"?—Yes.

The ingredients here mentioned are contained in the pills?—One of them is.

Do you mean only one; perhaps you are not prepared to answer that?—If you don't mind, I would prefer not.

Sir Philip then inquired whether the alterations made in the circular about Beecham's pills were in consequence of the statements in "Secret Remedies," and Sir Joseph replied that the circular was revised some years before that book was issued. Witness further stated that he considered the statements in the circular correct, and that the pills would be of assistance in promoting the action of the kidneys and also in bringing about the effects referred to in the circular under the heading "Advice to Females of All Ages." Questions were then put regarding the morphine in the cough-pills.

Sir Philip Magnus asked: Did you take out the morphine from all the pills?—We took it all out, replied the witness.

Are all the pills made up of the same ingredients?—Oh, yes.

Mr. Lynch then took witness in hand, and began by asking: What was your father?—He was a druggist.

Were the pills the result of a therapeutic discovery?—I should say he discovered the particular combination.

Mr. Lawson: He discovered the money value?—That came in time.

Mr. Lynch: Will you say what your father really did to entitle him to any special protection?—He introduced the medicine of Beecham's Pills to the public, he registered the name as a trade-mark, and I think the business is entitled to protection.

What is the annual turnover of Beecham's pills?—I don't think it is necessary to give any figures; but I may say this, that I believe my business is by far

THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

Including Sundays, considerably over a million Beecham's pills are sold per day.

The Chairman: What do a million pills weigh in round figures? (Laughter.)

Witness could not say, but he told the Committee the approximate weight of the pills sold last year was fifty tons.

Mr. Lynch: What is the weight of material, there must be waste of some sort?—No; that is the weight of material.

Mr. Lynch made a rapid calculation, and said that represented a turnover of about 360,000*l.* a year.

Witness: I do not think that is very far out.

Mr. Lynch then inquired whether the ingredients used are of British or foreign origin?—"Mostly of foreign origin," replied Sir Joseph.

All you do is compounding. What weight of soap do you use?

The Chairman: You are entirely at liberty to answer that question or not.

Sir Joseph Beecham: I decline to say.

Mr. Lynch: Is the soap of foreign origin?—If they contain soap, it does not seem to me to matter whether it is German or British.

Further, in reply to Mr. Lynch, witness said that he spent last year 100,000*l.* in advertising all over the world. The sale of the pills is increasing.

Mr. Lynch: You said you did not know the composition

of Beecham's pills?—Witness (astonished): I don't know? I have known for fifty years.

Mr. Lynch then asked a few questions regarding the presence or absence of morphine from the cough-pills, and witness said that the statement in the circular was altered as soon as the error was discovered.

Was the alteration made after a consultation of the directors?—There are no directors. Only one person knew that the alteration had been made in the pills, and he called my attention to the statement in the circular.

Mr. Lynch: You say the amount of morphine is trivial, yet important. Is there anything to show that the pills contain poison?—A minute quantity is not required to be labelled poison.

Mr. Lynch then launched out into a series of questions as to the various kinds of coughs, including that resulting from heart-disease, but witness would not give his opinion on these medical questions. Next Mr. Lynch returned to the alterations in the circular. Witness said it was brought up to date on the death of his father, who had not wished alterations to be made in his lifetime. The ingredients were not changed, and the only alterations in the circulars were changes in the form of language. Mr. Lynch then referred to the paragraphs headed "Secret Maladies," and witness pointed out that no claim was made to cure those diseases. In regard to menstrual derangements Sir Joseph explained that Beecham's pills are useful in combating the constipation which is a feature with women at certain periods.

Mr. Bathurst: Is there any reason why that statement should not be substituted for what is given in the circular; it would be less misleading?—The circular is not misleading.

Mr. Lynch: Are not the terms of your advertisement left vague and general so that you can profit by it and work on the fears and ignorance of the public to induce them to buy the pills?—Oh, no. The person who sees the circular has already bought a box of pills.

Mr. Lynch: Which has the greatest weight with you—profit or the health of the public?

The Chairman: That is not a fair form of question.

Mr. Lynch: Are your advertisements revised by an expert physiologist or medical man?—Some of the statements are made on the advice of a qualified medical man, whose name he declined to mention.

The Chairman then made a statement that he thought the witness was in error in saying that the proportion of morphine in the cough-pills was influenced by the Delves case in 1893—i.e., the *de minimis non curat lex* decision. As far as he could see, that case did not touch the point.

The Committee adjourned for luncheon.

AFTER LUNCHEON.

At 2.25 P.M. Sir Joseph Beecham, attended by Mr. Glover, was admitted to the Committee-room by the members' door. After twenty-five minutes' discussion in private, the public were admitted. Mr. Lynch resumed his questioning, and asked witness if he objected to omitting in the English circular the paragraph relating to "Secret Maladies." Witness said this would not matter much. Mr. Lynch hinted that the name "Beecham" on the medicine-stamp suggested that the Government endorsed the pills. Witness replied by reading the words "No Government guarantee" on the stamp itself.

Witness, in reply to Mr. Lawson, had again to assure the Committee that the formula for Beecham's pills had never been changed, and that it is not given in "Secret Remedies." Mr. Lawson asked if, taking into account establishment expenses and advertisements, other firms could manufacture a standard substance such as these pills at a lower price with a reasonable rate of profit.—Witness said they might if he did the advertising. In reply to another question concerning the connection between price charged and advertising, witness said that boxes of pills made up in Manchester, Glasgow, and Liverpool from the formula in "Secret Remedies" were charged 1*s.*, 1*s.* 9*d.*, and 2*s.* 6*d.* The Chairman did not see what connection this had to do with the price of Beecham's pills.

Mr. Lawson: You want to show that the ordinary pharmacist making up that prescription would charge that price for it?—Yes.

Of course, manufacturing on the scale you do, by the ton, you are able to do it at a considerably less price?—Yes.

Mr. Lawson next asked if many doctors prescribe Beecham's pills?—Witness said he could not name individual cases, but he knew they do recommend them. A Harley Street physician, when told by a patient he was taking Beecham's pills, had said: "Yes. They are a good thing." At St. Helens a doctor had called at the works for a supply.

Mr. Lawson concluded by asking if witness thought as a matter of goodwill he is entitled to the sole use of the formula?—Witness: Certainly.

Mr. Newton asked: To what extent would your trade be damaged if the advertisements were confined to holding out Beecham's pills as a remedy for constipation.—Witness said he could not form any idea. Sir Joseph also said the "Secret maladies" paragraph is not of much value commercially, and he could guess only at the loss which would follow the deletion of "The advice to females of all ages."

Mr. Newton asked if the alterations in the circular to meet the requirements of the Australian Government had been a matter of scratching out details. Witness answered that the alterations had all related to one paragraph, and, though it had not been necessary, he thought that he might as well omit the paragraph altogether.

Mr. Bathurst asked if it would not be better to modify the circular so as to state that the pills are for use in constipation and not directly in connection with derangement of the menstrual function. Witness said he was willing to modify it if the Committee thought it desirable.

Mr. Bathurst called attention to an advertisement of a lady standing at the door and an insurance-agent who was trying to insure the family and was told, "No good; we take Beecham's pills," and the insurance-agent was represented as saying: "Then we can take you at a lower premium." He continued:

Is that advertisement misleading to poor and ignorant people?—I do not think so.

Have you ever heard of an insurance agent taking a person at a lower premium because he or she took Beecham's pills?

Witness replied with a smile that he had not.

Mr. Glyn-Jones next questioned witness as to morphine in Beecham's pills. He elicited that this ingredient is not present in Beecham's pills, but only in the cough pills. He also asked if witness, as proprietor, is not conservative about advertising matter, the last thing being to alter the get-up or wrapper.—Yes. This wrapper is thus a survival of the original one, but has been altered. Mr. Glyn-Jones's examination continued:

If the pamphlet had been confined to the statement "But the process of cradicating the poison from the system will be materially assisted by the aid of a perfectly safe, but reliable, searching, cleansing, purgative medicine, and nothing better for that purpose can be used than Beecham's pills," it would be strictly true; and it is in applying the results of that medicine to various diseases that you get into difficulties.—Witness: In the main, its virtues are as a reliable, searching, cleansing, and purgative medicine.

It would be true to say you have a remedy for constipation, but you don't quite give the public the benefit of your knowledge?—Not necessarily.

I am not suggesting it is your duty, but instead of instructing the public, you tell them you have got a remedy.—Witness (reading from circular): Constipation causes more than half the sickness in the world, especially among women.

Mr. Glyn-Jones: The public would not value a preparation simply on the bare statement that there is nothing better than Beecham's pills as a purgative.—Witness: If confined to that, I do not think so.

The question of the sale of proprietary medicines in foreign countries again cropped up, Sir Joseph stating that no country had refused his preparations, but the conditions in Germany were so irksome that he had not troubled to advertise there.

Mr. Glyn-Jones next proceeded to put some questions on the subject of the publication of formulae, holding up a card to which were attached a dozen or so boxes of pills. This had been submitted to the Committee by the witness, and upon it was printed "Jap's Pills, made from the formula based on the analysis of the British Medical Association of Beecham's Pills." Sir Joseph was then asked:

There are fifty-six of these pills in a box. Supposing I

were to substitute for fifty-six of your pills fifty-six pills made from this formula, would you be able to detect the difference?—Oh, yes, replied Sir Joseph.

Then, although it is not possible to tell by analysis the constituents of Beecham's pills, yet you have some test whereby you would be able to distinguish between pills made in accordance with the formula in "Secret Remedies" and your own pills?—Witness: There is so very much difference that it is quite easy to detect. If you were to cut one pill of each kind into half you would be able to see it yourself.

Do you suggest that in consequence of the publication of what purports to be an analysis of your pills, others have been brought into competition with you?—Yes.

Do you suggest that if the actual formula had to be published, then you would not have the weapon against competition of saying: "Those are not really the pills made from the Beecham formula?"—I should not have it. That is what you are afraid of in the publication of the formula?—Yes.

There followed a few questions by Mr. Glyn-Jones as to the practice of "breaking bulk" which Sir Joseph had intimated was extensively followed in the case of Beecham's pills for the benefit of the poorer classes.

Mr. Glyn-Jones suggested that Sir Joseph's difficulties in preventing substitutes being sold had been largely enhanced from the fact that people sell Beecham's pills in a screw of paper without any stamp or any sort of guarantee that they were really Beecham's.—Witness, in replying, said there is a temptation for unscrupulous dealers to buy pills in bulk and substitute them. Continuing, his questioner asked:

But no one could sell a substitute for Beecham's pills if they were not allowed to break bulk unless they counterfeited the label, the box, and the Government stamp?—Witness: That is so.

Would you not desire to prevent "breaking bulk"?—Witness, quietly but decidedly: "No, I would not." There is, he added, a difference between substitution and fraudulent substitution.

Witness declared that the attitude of chemists and others who sell Beecham's pills towards his goods is admittedly friendly. The circular headed "Warning" was intended for the small huckster in a back street, and not for druggists. Continuing, Mr. Glyn-Jones said it is rather wonderful the trade are on friendly terms when the price of Beecham's pills is 9s. 6d. per dozen boxes.—Witness said he did not fix the retail price.

Mr. Glyn-Jones: I want to know whether pharmacists, as a class, would have any strong inducement to foster the sale of patent medicines?—Witness: Many customers get through 5l. worth of Beecham's pills five or six times a year, getting each time a special discount.

Do you suggest 10 per cent. is a fair profit for the retailer?—I do not suggest it. Continuing: I am not responsible for the cutting down of the price. I would much rather that druggists got 1s. than 10½d., but I cannot help it.

Mr. Glyn-Jones (reading from 1-lb. lever lid tin-box): "Standard Tablet and Pill Co., Ltd., liquorice-coated pills prepared according to the analysis in 'Secret Remedies.'" Do you know if the tin is supplied like this, with pills in screws of paper?—Witness: No; the retailer does that, the Standard Tablet and Pill Co. sell by the gross.

The Chairman: "Beecham's Pills have saved the lives of thousands of women." How do you know that?—Witness: I do not think it is a very extravagant statement to make in sixty years.

It is a remarkable statement. How do you know it?—Witness: Personally, I do not know of thousands of people, but, judging by the amount of good the medicine has done, I assume it.

The Chairman: Do you know of your own knowledge that Beecham's pills have saved the life of one woman?—Witness: As I have said, I have received a vast quantity of testimonials, and statements of that kind have been made by men and women—that is to say, that the pills have saved their lives.

Next the Chairman reverted to the intimate mixing of the large quantity of materials made up into pills every year. Witness explained that the pill mass was mixed by machinery, and a perfectly even distribution was secured. "If you are passing through St. Helens I shall be very pleased to show you," said Sir Joseph, amid laughter. The Chairman replied that the investigation by the Committee had led him to be interested in the matter, and he would take advantage of the offer at the first opportunity he was near St. Helens.

Then there was another change in the drift of the questions. The Chairman harked back to the Beecham circular again, and reminded the witness of what he had said—viz. that except for the omission of the half-page on "Secret Maladies" no changes were required by the Australian Government, except purely verbal ones. He quoted two statements which he thought did not agree, but the witness pointed out that there was practically no difference in the two statements.

Another series of questions regarding the statement in the "British Medical Journal," referred to by Sir Joseph in his evidence in chief, as to which the Chairman said:

I must point out to you that you have been grossly misled. In your *précis* you say that the strictness of the law in Germany relating to the sale of drugs and remedies is probably responsible for the increase of the unlicensed practitioner. Then you quote figures from the "British Medical Journal" to show how this class has increased. I want to point out to you that this article has nothing to do with that, but deals with the state of affairs in Germany regarding the laws prescribing the qualifications of men before they are allowed to practice medicine. It has nothing to do with the sale of drugs at all. It simply points out that because of certain laws passed in Germany relaxing the conditions under which these men should be allowed to practise medicine, there has been an appalling increase of quacks and medical humbugs of all kinds. It has not the least bearing on publication of formulæ. Therefore, I suggest to you that, although I am quite certain you made this statement to us in perfectly good faith, you have been gravely misled.

Sir Joseph next retold the Chairman that Beecham's pills sell freely in Germany, although he does not advertise them owing to irksome conditions.

The Chairman then remarked that the Pharmaceutical Society *v.* Delve case had no bearing on the question of the amount of morphine allowable in the cough pills without coming under the Pharmacy Act. He still considered witness had been wrongly advised on this matter. The case failed entirely, because the analyst in his certificate had not given the quantity of morphine. It was proved that defendant sold the medicine, but the analyst had no instructions to ascertain the quantity of morphine in it. The County Court Judge had held that as there was no evidence as to quantity, the defendant was not liable. In the Pharmaceutical Society *v.* Armson case the medicine contained so little morphine that one might take a whole bottle full without ill-effect. Could a whole box of Beecham's cough pills be swallowed without bad results?—Sir Joseph said he did not suppose anyone would be so foolish as to take a whole box-full. (Laughter.)

The Chairman next read from Mr. Glyn-Jones's book the dictum of Lord Justice Kay, that "de minimis non curat lex" did not apply in the Pharmaceutical Society *v.* Armson case.—Witness said he could not imagine anyone taking a whole box of cough pills.

The Chairman: You do not have to label them "Poison"?—No.

So you put in morphine, took it out, and put it in again without regard to medicinal effect, but to meet conditions under law?—Yes.

The Chairman: You sell 50 tons a year of Beecham's pills without yourself knowing the origin of the formula?—Witness: I told you all about that before.

Dr. Chappell followed, and his questions practically duplicated those of Mr. Lynch, whom he had not heard. Like the latter, he dealt with a few words relating to disease, "whether it be hereditary or acquired," apart from the context of the sentence, and witness admitted that gonorrhœa and syphilis were referred to. Dr. Chappell also ingenuously suggested that Beecham's pills resembled Holloway's pills in size and appearance, and that the latter were on the market first.—Sir Joseph said he knew nothing about Holloway's pills or their history.

It was announced that the next meeting would be on February 6.

C. & D. SHOPS ACT NOTICE.—An inspector of shops under one of the County Councils, writing in regard to the notice-card which we publish for exhibition by chemists during closing hours on the half-holiday, says: "The notice seems to be as little objectionable to the shopkeeper as it can be made." We supply a pair of the notices for 8d., post free.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

AT the ordinary scientific meeting held at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W., on January 23, the President, Professor P. F. Frankland, F.R.S., presided over an attendance of about fifty members. The first paper gave results of investigations by Drs. F. B. Power and A. H. Salway in the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories on

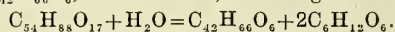
THE CONSTITUENTS OF CAULOPHYLLUM THALICTROIDES.

This was read by Dr. Power. The plant *Caulophyllum thalictroides*, L., or "blue cohosh," is indigenous to North America. The drug consists of the rhizome and roots, and is used to a considerable extent medicinally. J. U. Lloyd, some twenty-five years ago, stated that caulophyllum contains an alkaloid, "caulophylline," and described its crystalline hydrochloride, but did not succeed in crystallising the base, and up to the present time its composition had not been known. This investigator also obtained a crystalline, saponin-like glucoside, termed "leontin," derived from *Leontice*, an old botanical name of the plant. The formula deduced by analysis was evidently not correct, and its hydrolytic products were not determined.

The alkaloid has now been obtained in a pure, crystalline state, completely characterised, and proved to be methylcytisine, $C_{12}H_{16}ON_2$ (m.p. 137° and $[\alpha]_D -221.6^\circ$). This compound was prepared some years ago by the methylation of cytisine, an alkaloid found in the seeds of the laburnum and the common gorse, but its occurrence in Nature had not hitherto been observed. It represents Lloyd's "caulophylline," and in view of its present identification the latter name should now be abandoned, especially as the same name is given to a resinous product used to a considerable extent.

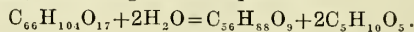
Caulophyllum has now been shown to contain two crystalline glucosides possessing the character of saponins. Only one crystalline saponin appears hitherto to have been satisfactorily characterised, although the saponins are widely distributed in plants. The glucoside occurring in predominating amount in caulophyllum is undoubtedly identical with Lloyd's "leontin," but as its formula is now for the first time correctly determined through a study of its hydrolytic products and other derivatives, it has been deemed desirable to give it the new and distinctive name of *caulosaponin*.

Caulosaponin (m.p. 250° to 255°) possesses the formula $C_{54}H_{88}O_{17} \cdot 4H_2O$. It is sparingly soluble or practically insoluble in cold water, more so in hot water, and is sparingly soluble in cold alcohol. It possesses phenolic characters and dissolves in solutions of alkaline hydroxides. The alcohol-aqueous solution froths freely. This property was demonstrated. Caulosaponin yields a *deca-acetyl derivative*, and when hydrolysed by dilute acids is resolved into a crystalline substance, termed *caulosapogenin*, $C_{42}H_{66}O_6$, and dextrose, according to the equation:



Caulosapogenin contains four hydroxyl groups, one of which is phenolic, and from it a number of derivatives were prepared, including a diacetyl derivative, a monosodium compound, a tetrabenzoyl derivative, and a monomethyl ether.

The second crystalline glucoside has been given the name *caulophyllosaponin*. This possesses the formula $C_{66}H_{104}O_{17}$, and yields a *deca-acetyl derivative*. It differs from caulosaponin in being readily soluble in alcohol, but resembles it in its phenolic character. When hydrolysed by heating with dilute acids, it is resolved into a crystalline substance termed *caulophyllosapogenin*, $C_{56}H_{88}O_8$, and *l*-arabinose, according to the equation:



Caulophyllosapogenin contains six hydroxyl groups, two of which are phenolic. The hexa-acetyl and dimethyl derivatives were prepared from this substance.

It may be noted that the test described by Gilbard (*C. & D.* 1911, I., 61) for the recognition of the amorphous, resinous product known as "caulophyllin" depending upon the production of a purplish colour with

concentrated sulphuric acid, is now found to be due to the presence in "caulophyllin" of the above-mentioned saponin glucosides.

Other constituents of lesser interest which have been found in caulophyllum are an enzyme, an essential oil, a phytosterol, $C_{27}H_{46}O$, citrullol, $C_{28}H_{45}O_2(OH)_3$, and palmitic, stearic, cerotic, oleic, and linolic acids. The drug also contains a small amount of resinous material and a quantity of sugar, which yielded *d*-phenylglucosazone.

The physiological action of methylcystine was determined by Dr. P. P. Laidlaw, who found it resembles eytisine, but has not more than one-tenth the potency of the latter. Drs. Laidlaw and Dale have shown that cytisine resembles nicotine in physiological action. The two glucosides, caulosaponin and caulophyllosaponin, showed the powerful hæmolytic action of saponins towards washed red blood-corpuscles. Whole blood and unwashed red corpuscles were unaffected, and Dr. Power mentioned that this difference in action was possibly due to the great affinity of saponins for lipoids. This property probably protected the living tissues, for when the substances are given by mouth to small cats in amounts of 0.1 gram, only a slight laxative action is observed.

Dr. Power remarked that the separation of the glucosides in a state of purity had been a difficult task, and its completion had been due to the skill of his colleague Dr. Salway.

In answer to Dr. M. O. Forster, it was stated that eulytinalol was not present in caulophyllum.

Mr. W. R. Bousfield, K.C., read a paper on "Ionisation and the Law of Mass Action"; Dr. T. C. Porter followed with a note on the character and cause of "Blue Fluorescence in Alkaline Quinol-Sulphate Solutions" on exposure to air; and Mr. T. R. Merton read a paper on "The Absorption Spectra of Cobalt-Nitrate Solution."

GAZETTE.

Partnerships Dissolved.

O'CONNELL, J. H., and BROWN, S., Lodge Lane, Liverpool, physicians and surgeons, under the style of Drs. O'Connell & Brown.

TAIT, E. S., and BEALE, S. J. A., Highbury, medical practitioners, under the style of Tait & Beale.

STEPHENS, T. H., STEPHENS, M. L., and STEPHENS, G. T., High Holborn, drug merchants, under the style of B. W. Hair & Son; so far as regards G. T. Stephens.

COLLEGE NOTES.

BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND COLLEGE OF CHEMISTRY AND PHARMACY.—At the recent terminal competitive examination held at the above-named school the following awards were made: *Silver Medal*—Mr. V. Hale. *Bronze Medal*—Mr. A. W. Poucher. *Remington Prize* (presented by Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co.)—Mr. T. E. Rees. *Certificates of Merit*—Chemistry and Physics, Messrs. V. Hale, C. W. Monk, A. W. Poucher; Pharmacy and Latin, Messrs. V. Hale, C. W. Monk, A. W. Poucher, W. N. Press, T. E. Rees; Practical Chemistry, Messrs. V. Hale, A. W. Poucher. Botany, Messrs. V. Hale, A. W. Poucher, W. N. Press, T. E. Rees; Materia Medica, Messrs. V. Hale, A. W. Poucher, T. E. Rees; Dispensing, Messrs. H. Clark, T. C. Evans, V. Hale, A. W. Poucher, W. N. Press, C. W. Monk, T. E. Rees.

UCAL.—Two meetings of the United Chemists' Association, Ltd., were held at Broadway Hall, Hammersmith, W., last week. The Wednesday meeting was presided over by Mr. F. Cherry (Walton-on-Thames), and that on Thursday by Mr. G. W. Evans (Hammersmith). Short addresses were given by Messrs. Miller, Bolshaw, and Jackson (Directors), Evans, Palmer (Aylesbury), and Cherry, followed by a discussion. Both meetings were well attended, and a number of fresh members were enrolled each day. Mr. Hampton, the organising representative, is remaining in London for a short time.

WINTER SESSION.

Reporters, and Secretaries of Associations whose meetings are not open to reporters, are requested to send their reports to the Editor not later than the Wednesday following the meeting.

Aberdeen.—At a meeting of the Aberdeen Junior Chemists' Association on January 23 an interesting and instructive lecture on *The Romance of Pharmacy* was delivered by Mr. David Anderson.

Liverpool.—The report of the Library Committee of the Liverpool Chemists' Association, read at the annual meeting on January 29, states that the library has been overhauled and brought up to date by the purchase of new books. A library catalogue has been published, and is supplied at 3d. each. The catalogue, of twenty pages, is a useful one, authors and subjects being combined in the one list.

Buckrose Pharmacists' Association.—A meeting of the pharmacists of Bridlington, Driffield, Filey, etc., has been held at the Station Hotel, Bridlington, Mr. J. V. Mainprize presiding. It was decided to form an association, and the Chairman was elected first President, and Mr. P. Hawkins Secretary. A committee was appointed to represent the Association on the Joint Committee of the Hull and East Riding Associations. An Insurance Committee was also formed.

Glasgow.—A meeting of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Chemists' Association was held in the Regent Tea Rooms, Glasgow, on January 25, Mr. J. H. Hart (President) in the chair. Seven new members were elected and welcomed. With reference to *Insurance Dispensing*, the President mentioned that the Association is busy extending the prices in the tariff, so that any given quantity can be seen at a glance, together with some general recommendations as to the pricing of Insurance prescriptions. A lecture, entitled *Some Experiments with Liquid Air*, was delivered by Mr. Malcolm M. Irvine, Ph.C. After explaining how gases are liquefied, the lecturer performed a series of experiments illustrating the subject well. Mr. Mark Davis assisted. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the British Oxygen Co. for supplying a quantity of liquid air.

Thames Valley.—A meeting of the Thames Valley Pharmacists' Association was held at Kingston-on-Thames on January 29. About fifty pharmacists on the panels for Surrey or Middlesex attended, with Mr. F. Harvey (Surbiton), the President, in the chair. The President opened the proceedings by drawing the attention of those present to the notice which has been issued by the Association regarding the labelling of quinine wine, the Commissioners of Customs ruling that the word "dose" must be in bold type, and the dose must not exceed that prescribed by the B.P.—viz., half to one fluid ounce (see *C. & D.*, December 21, 1912, index folio 918). The next item was the consideration of unremunerative rates at which certain proprietary medicines are retailed. Mr. Bunker, on behalf of the P.A.T.A., explained the attitude of that Association. The Secretary was requested to write and request manufacturers to consider the question of joining the P.A.T.A.

Public Pharmacists.—The annual meeting of the Public Pharmacists' and Dispensers' Association was held on January 29, when a company of about twenty were present. Messrs. A. Howell, Eton, and Townyn were elected members. The report of the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. H. H. Hewitt) showed a balance in hand of 4l. 0s. 2d., including a credit balance of 1l. 15s. 9½d. belonging to the Poor Law Section. The Association was now quite free from debt. The report of the Hon. Secretary (Mr. J. H. France) was a long record of good work. Mr. T. H. W. Idris was thanked for his services as President. Special reference was made to the deputation which waited upon Dr. Smith Whittaker, urging that dispensing under the National Insurance Act in institutions should be done by a pharmacist. The appointment of the Chairman (Mr. R. W. Lindsey) on the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee on Insurance was referred to with satisfaction, as also the success attending the memorial to the Local Government Board. The election of officers resulted as follows: *President*, Mr. T. H. W. Idris, J.P.; *Chairman*, Mr. Robert W. Lindsey; *Vice-Chairman*, Mr. F. Noad Clark; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. H. H. Hewitt; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. J. Hassall France; *Hon. Secretary, "Poor Law Section"*, Mr. Geo. W. Gibson; *Council*, Messrs. R. Welford, W. E. Miller, W. H. Windmill, O. A. Elias, W. E. Kinsman, H. C. T. Gardner, Norman Colbeck, J. Dunstan, and W. Cooper. The address of the Chairman dealt mainly with the aspects of the National Insurance Act from the point of view of the institutional dispenser. It was pointed out that in the case of hospitals, etc., where the staff contract out, so as to get

treatment in the institution where they are employed, it is possible that the pharmacist will be allowed the dispensing charges made according to the tariff.

Cardiff.—The annual meeting of the Cardiff Pharmaceutical Association was held at Cardiff on Wednesday, January 29, when the newly elected President (Mr. Gregory T. Williams) delivered an address on the *National Insurance Act*. In this he dealt chiefly with the Medical Benefit provisions, giving special credit to the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee for their efforts and vigilant attention to the interests of chemists. Prescribing by the doctors, and dispensing by the chemists. No less than 95 per cent. of the practising pharmacists had agreed to undertake service under the scheme, and, except in a few remote areas, where dispensing would be done by the doctors, dispensing panels had been formed in all districts. He referred to what had been said by Mr. C. B. Allen, President of the Pharmaceutical Society, as to the advantages and benefits of the Act, and said that, although the arrangements might leave much to be desired, they had great cause for self-congratulation. He thought there was every probability of their being able to make dispensing remunerative. He estimated that medicines at 1s. 6d. per head worked out on an average to 46l. per annum per doctor. This was no considerable amount to revert to the chemists, although by no means a high computation of the amount paid for drugs, etc., to dispensing doctors. It was palpable that their brethren of the medical profession who were in the habit of doing their own dispensing had been enjoying the source of a nice annual profit at the expense of the pharmacists, a great proportion of which chemists would now be entitled to share in. In concluding, Mr. Williams said that he was looking forward to a strenuous twelve months in their struggle to cope with the intricacies of the Act and the establishment of a popular tariff, and he had no doubt that, with proper organisation and cohesion, they would surmount all difficulties and establish themselves as a necessary and valuable adjunct to the machinery of the National Insurance Act. Mr. A. Griffiths (Maesteg) said the Insurance Act is working very badly with them in the valleys. He thought they had been sold by their enemies of the medical profession, who are openly fighting them. The question was whether pharmacists were to do without the dispensing, and the medical men were to get the 2s. set apart for drugs? In the valleys there are 16,000 insured persons and only four chemists, and he did not think they had received fifty prescriptions in ten days! Mr. Williams (Maesteg) said the unfortunate thing was that the miners in the valley had settled the matter over the heads of the chemists. As those present knew, there was no Association at Maesteg. Mr. A. Hagon said that was the cause of their present position. He had been constantly trying to form an Association in that district, but without success, and now they had an example of the evil of an unorganised lot of men. Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Leo Joseph also spoke. Mr. Leo Joseph (Hon. Treasurer) presented the statement of accounts, which showed a deficit on the year of 8l. 0s. 3d., owing to abnormal expenditure. On Mr. Joseph's motion, Mr. Hagon was thanked for his services as Chairman of the Welsh Pharmaceutical Insurance Committee and in other capacities.

Society of Arts.—At last week's Wednesday evening meeting a paper on "Advertising," prepared by Mr. Edmund Street and Mr. Lionel Jackson, was read by the former gentleman. Mr. Carmichael Thomas presided. In the course of the paper Mr. Street said that on looking back on a fifty years' working experience his first impression was the rarity of the non-advertiser. There is one vast improvement in the methods. No longer are advertisers allowed the freedom of description in respect to medicines that is found in advertisements in old journals. Referring to recent exposure of some of the more objectionable nostrums, Mr. Street mentioned that this is by no means new, for he had a volume of a serial called "The Scourge," a journal which appeared in 1811. This publication was rather more explicit than our present medical journals, for in one number one read that they examined a preparation called "Godfrey's Cordial" for diseases of children, and they found that the real effect was death; and another called "Tasteless Ague Drop," the result of which was colic, palsy, madness, death. The price of this precious nostrum was 26s. per bottle and the actual cost 1d. [This is now liquor arsenicalis, B.P.—Editor.] Referring to the present inquiry, Mr. Street said it did not do to take for granted that the conclusions arrived at by the medical journals were correct in every case, for, as his friend Mr. J. C. Umney had recently shown, their analyses of proprietary medicines were in several cases perfectly unreliable, and, in fact, ridiculous. Mr. Street contended that behind every advertising scheme there must be a policy, and that policy must be the pole-star by which the ship of advertising

must be steered. In the course of a discussion which followed, Mr. J. C. Umney referred to the advertising of proprietary medicines and to the action he had taken in defending the interests of manufacturers of proprietary medicines before the Select Committee of the House of Commons. These proprietary or patent medicines, he remarked, were not all good, but there were not so many bad ones as people imagined. Those which were bad seldom had a very long life, and if one wanted evidence of this, it was found in the failure of so many advertising agents who took the advertisements from the proprietors of such medicines. Mr. Street had mentioned that 400 firms of advertising agents are now in existence, as compared with the few that were in business forty years ago, but he did not refer to the number who had gone out of business. Commenting upon keying as a means for ascertaining whether or not advertising pays, Mr. Umney said that keying without examination and criticism of the replies is of no use whatever. The indiscriminate supplying of samples in response to requests made for them, in many instances by schoolboys who saw the advertisements in various papers, is a very dangerous thing indeed.

London (Western).—A meeting of the Western Pharmacists' Association was held at the Restaurant Frascati on January 29. Mr. C. T. Allen presided over a good attendance. Mr. D. Angus Macnab, F.R.C.S., gave a lecture on *Recent Advances in the Treatment of Eye-diseases*. This was an interesting résumé of changes of treatment that have been adopted within the last ten years. Dealing first with conjunctivitis, the lecturer said the varieties were formerly classified according to the nature of the discharge, and treated with antiseptics and astringents, changed until one was found that cured the disease. Conjunctivitis has now been proved to be a microbic infection, and the problem has been to find an antiseptic exerting the maximum lethal effect on the microbes. Angular conjunctivitis was described in detail and the experimental work, which proved that zinc sulphate is the best antiseptic to employ. If this does not cure, nothing else will, said the lecturer. An alternative to zinc sulphate is zinc sulphanilate or "nizin." Dealing then with gonococcus conjunctivitis, the advantages were stated of the organic silver compounds over silver nitrate, the chief being that albumen is not coagulated by the newer compounds. For marginal blepharitis, an infiltration of the eyelids, ionisation methods have been adopted with success, these enabling a drug—zinc sulphate is used—to get through the tissues. In stricture of the lachrymal passage, which causes tears to flow over the face, it was formerly the practice to pass probes down the duct. Now it has been found that extirpation of the duct is effectual, this operation cutting off the reflex and so stopping the secretion of tears. An interesting chat was given on the methods of removing foreign bodies from the eye, and a practical illustration made of the way to invert the upper lid. When a chemist fails to remove a foreign body, the patient should be sent to the surgeon, and, unless the chemist is sure that he is going, cocaine should not be placed in the eye. Next followed useful hints on iritis. The two varieties, septic and gonorrhoeal, are much alike in appearance. Septic iritis is, in from 25 to 30 per cent. of the cases, due to pyorrhoea alveolaris, and often a patient with iritis should be treated first by the dentist. Incidentally the lecturer mentioned the success which has attended the use of copper sulphate in treating pyorrhoea. Then in regard to gonorrhoeal iritis it will be found that the patient has had gonorrhoea, perhaps fifteen or twenty years previously. The modern treatment is the employment of gonorrhoea vaccine, intractable cases often yielding in forty-eight hours. In syphilitic iritis salvarsan gives good results, and the lecturer mentioned that he was inclined to think that neo-salvarsan is not so useful as the older form. Then, dealing with chronic glaucoma, he stated that formerly an operation was performed which saved about 40 to 50 per cent. of the eyes operated upon. Now Elliott's operation is performed, which involves the boring of a small hole through the sclerotic by means of a tiny trephine, and so forming a valve for the escape of the humour and relieving the tension; the results of this operation have been very brilliant. A discussion followed, in which several questions arose as to the use of sterile tooth-brushes, isotonic eye-lotions, and yellow oxide of mercury ointment. In regard to the last-named ointment, the lecturer paid a very high compliment to the efficacy of the preparation of W. Martindale, in which freshly precipitated oxide is employed.

"THE CHEMIST-OPTICIAN" is the first book which chemists should read who want to know how to make money off spectacles and eyeglasses. Post free from the C. & D. Office, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., for 4s. 3d., or from any wholesale house with order for 4s.

TRADE REPORT.

The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers receive the goods into stock, after which much expense may be incurred in garbling and the like. Qualities of chemicals, drugs, oils, and many other commodities vary greatly, and higher prices than those here quoted are charged for selected qualities of natural products even in bulk quantities. Retail buyers cannot, therefore, for these and other reasons, expect to purchase at the prices quoted here.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., January 30.

BUSINESS in drugs and chemicals during the last week of the month has been of a restricted character, although reports of merchants and dealers vary somewhat. The advances in quotations, however (including a number of out-of-the-way chemicals), outnumber the declines, as our table shows. The chief event was the advance of 1d. in quinine which took place on Friday last; but it cannot be said the second-hand market has made much response, as the bark-auction result was not up to expectations. Ferri quin. cit. is another $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz. dearer. Cocaine has dropped 7d., the raw material being cheaper. Atropine is dearer, the supplies of high-testing belladonna-root being scarce and higher. Colchicine is also dearer. Cream of tartar has advanced 1s. per cwt., and citric acid remains very firm. Among heavy chemicals, arsenic is easy. Quicksilver is cheaper from second-hands. Antimony, benzols, and ammonia sulphate are also weaker. In drugs, we note heavy arrivals of asafetida; balsam tolu appears to have recovered, with business at the quoted prices; gentian is firm, and raw opium remains a dead-letter. Soy is a trifle easier owing to arrivals, and the same applies to star-anise oil on spot. Official reports as to the first week's Lofoten cod-fishing show poor results, but for the whole country the catch is very fair as compared with last year; higher prices, however, are asked for new oil, but they are more tentative than actual. A marked scarcity is still apparent in lemon oil, and again higher prices were wanted. Starch-powder, farina, and dextrin were advanced to-day. The principal changes have been as under:

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Arecoline Atropine Colchicine Cream of tartar Dextrin Farina Ferri quin. cit. Lemon oil Peppermint oil (Amer.) Quinine (makers') Starch powder	Burdock Cod-liver oil Shellac	Ammonia sulphate Antimony Benzols Quicksilver (sec. hands.) Turpentine	Cocaine Copper sulphate

Cablegrams.

AMSTERDAM, January 23.—At the auction of cinchona held here to-day 15,759 packages were offered, of which 8,149 packages sold at the average unit of 4.25c. per half-kilo., against 4.13c. at the December auction. The approximate quantities of quinine purchased were as follows: (1) The English and American factories, 6,194 kilos.; (2) the Brunswick factory, 6,755 kilos.; (3) the Mannheim factory, 6,887 kilos.; (4) the Amsterdam factory, 2,248 kilos.; (5) the Frankfort and Stuttgart factories, 5,339 kilos.; (6) the Maarssen factories, 6,166 kilos.; (7) various buyers, 7,038 kilos. The prices paid for

manufacturing-bark ranged from 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per half-kilo., and for druggists' bark from 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 43c.

NEW YORK, January 30.—Business in drugs is fair. Opium is easy at \$6.30 per lb. for druggists'. Quinine has advanced 2c. per oz. Peppermint oil in tins is higher at \$2.80. Hydrastis (golden seal) is firmer at \$3.97 and balsam canada has been advanced to \$6.50 per gall. Buchu is easier at \$1.40 per lb. for round. Cascara sagrada is quiet at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per lb.

London Markets.

ALCOHOL (ABSOLUTE).—In consonance with German spirit, the market is very firm, and $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 1d. per lb. higher at from 3s. 10d. to 4s. per lb., duty paid.

ANISE OIL (STAR).—Owing to arrivals "Red Ship" brand is obtainable at 6s. 11d. on spot, being a trifle cheaper. January-March shipment is quoted 6s. 4d. to 6s. 6d. c.i.f. to arrive. A large business has been done with the Continent at 6s. 1d. to 6s. 2d. c.i.f.

ARECOLINE.—Makers have advanced the price of the hydrobromide to 22s. 3d. per oz.

ARSENIC.—The slack demand gives an easy tone to this market, but prices are substantially as quoted a fortnight ago—viz.: 20l. to 21l. per ton c.i.f. London for 5 to 10 ton lots of best white Cornish powder, ton lots offering at from 23l. to 24l. Australian is obtainable at less.

ASAFETIDA.—The *Bahristan*, from Persian Gulf ports, has brought consignments amounting to 539 cases. There has again been a fair demand for export, the more reasonable prices having resulted in sales of about 150 cases at from about 65s. up to 7l. per cwt.

ATROPINE has advanced by 1s. 5d. per oz., the contract price for 70-oz. quantities of sulphate being 11s. 10d. per oz. *Pure* is 3s. dearer.

BALSAM CANADA.—Small sales are reported at 3s. 9d. net on spot.

BALSAM TOLU.—Several sales have been made on spot at 3s. 6d. net.

BENZOIN.—Subsequent to the auctions a few cases of good fair Sumatra seconds sold at 7l. 15s., and at 6l. 15s. for fair. About 50 cases Sumatra and a small parcel of Palembang seconds have arrived.

BERGAMOT OIL is quoted on spot at 29s. 11d. per lb. for 37 to 38 per cent. esters.

BUCHU.—The spot market continues dull, with round offering at 6s., and for ovals from 1s. 8d. to 2s. is quoted. No supplies of new crop have yet reached this market, but some may be expected in about three weeks. Fifteen bales old crop have arrived this week.

The exports from the Union of South Africa during November amounted to 4,759 lb., valued at 848l., against 5,563 lb., valued at 510l., during November 1911. The exports during the eleven months were 216,955 lb., valued at 37,229l., against 204,369 lb. in 1911.

BURDOCK-ROOT.—For cut the higher price of 36s. c.i.f. is quoted, and spot 38s. 6d.

CALABAR-BEANS.—Seven bags Sierra Leone have been sold in Liverpool at 1s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

CAMPHOR (CRUDE).—Japan Monopoly camphor is unaltered at from 142s. 6d. to 150s. per cwt. c.i.f. terms, according to quality.

CAMPHOR (REFINED).—Retail sales of Japanese tablets have been made at 1s. 7d. for 1 oz. and 1s. 8d. for $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; to arrive March-April shipment 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. has been paid for slabs.

CANNABIS INDICA.—The market has been practically cleared of Marmagoa tops at up to 4s. per lb.

CARDAMOMS.—Sales of Ceylon-Malabar seed have been made at 4s. 2d. per lb. c.i.f.

The figures relating to the exports from Ceylon for the whole of 1912 are now complete; they were 436,475 lb., as against 555,013 lb. in 1911, or 118,538 lb. less; exports in 1910 were 609,893 lb.; and 1909, 742,966 lb. The chief destinations last year were as follows, the figures in parentheses being those for 1911: U.K., 201,896 lb. (237,858 lb.); Germany, 115,205 lb. (104,314 lb.); Norway and Sweden, 8,178 lb. (6,382 lb.); Turkey, 6,331 lb. (24,645 lb.); U.S.A., 34,120 lb. (57,425 lb.); India, 44,549 lb. (97,395 lb.). In a year of much reduced exports, the increase to Germany

is noticeable; India was a much smaller consumer, as was the U.S.A.

CITRIC ACID remains very firm at 1s. 5½d. per lb., at which limited quantities are available for prompt delivery.

It is stated that the Camera Agrumaria have sold their old stocks of citrate of lime, and will only sell small quantities. The fact that the Californian lemon-crop has also suffered severely from frost, which will bring the U.S.A. into the market as a larger buyer than usual, also tends to strengthen the market.

COCA-LEAVES.—At the Amsterdam auction on January 23 130,685 kilos., containing a total of 2,103 kilos. alkaloids, were offered, of which 124,935 kilos., or 2,028 kilos. total alkaloids, sold at from 18c. to 50c. per half-kilo., the average unit being 23.01c., against 27.18c.

COCAINE.—The makers have reduced their quotations by 9d. per oz., making the hydrochloride in contract quantities of 175-oz. lots 7s. per oz.

COD-LIVER OIL.—Our Bergen correspondent writes on January 27 that the quotation for finest non-congealing Norwegian oil is 73s. to 74s. per barrel c.i.f. London. The cod-fishing has commenced under favourable auspices, the catch for the whole country to date being about five million cod, against nearly six millions last year. The production of steam refined oil is not far short of 4,000 barrels, against 5,500 barrels at the same date last year. As regards quotations for new oil by London agents, they are mostly tentative at the moment, 80s. c.i.f. being quoted by one agent; last year's oil of good quality is obtainable at 70s. on the spot.

The first statistics of this season's fishing are cabled to Messrs. Freudentheil & Co. by their principals, Messrs. Brodr. Aarsæther, of Aalesund, and are as follows:

	Catch of Cod	Livers for Raw Oils (hect.)	Yield of e.l.o. (hect.)
Lofoten ...	27,000	30	9
Whole Country...	4,700,000	2,350	3,603

The above figures show poor results so far as regards Lofoten, and that livers are yielding badly. Until the season is further advanced the quantity of new oil available will be quite small, and no idea of future productivity can be foreseen at present; the quotation for finest new Lofoten oil opens at 80s. per barrel, c.i.f. London.

COLCHICINE is dearer, the pure alkaloid and salicylate having been advanced to 64s. per oz.

COPPER SULPHATE is about 10s. per ton lower, the usual Liverpool brands offering for February-April delivery at 23d. 15s.

CREAM OF TARTAR is 1s. per cwt. dearer, 98-per-cent. powder offering at 88s. and 95-per-cent. at 86s. The makers are well sold ahead, and there is a temporary spot scarcity.

DEXTRIN has advanced to 16s. 6d. per cwt. ex wharf for Dutch; prices in Germany are above this parity.

FARINA has advanced to 15s. per cwt. ex wharf.

FERRI QUIN. CIT.—As a result of the further advance in quinine the makers announce a corresponding rise of ¼d. per oz., the quotations being as follows: List price, 25-oz. tins, 5½d.; 100-oz., 5d.; 500-oz., 4¾d.; and 1,000-oz. lots, 4½d. per oz.; with the usual charges for small packages.

GAMBOGE.—Small sales of fair Siam pipe have been made at 14l. 5s. per cwt.

GENTIAN is firm at from 28s. to 28s. 6d. spot.

GUM ACACIA.—Business has been done in Sudan sorts at from 34s. to 35s., and good soft sorts at 50s. to 55s.; new crop has also been sold at 30s. c.i.f., but subsequently 32s. 6d. c.i.f. is said to have been paid for January-February shipment. East Indian gums are quiet, Ghatti offering at 31s. for superior, 27s. for No. 1, and 21s. 9d. for No. 2 on c.i.f. terms. The rather easier price of 32s. per cwt. f.o.b. Bordeaux is asked for Senegal gum of the usual Bas de Fleuve quality.

IPECACUANHA.—Ten bales of cultivated Minas have arrived, which will be offered by a new broker for this drug. The new lot of 45 bales Johore will probably be offered next week. Market is tending easier. Cartagena is quoted at 7s. 3d. c.i.f. terms.

LEMON OIL continues its upward career, quotations ranging from 13s. up to 14s. 8d. per lb. c.i.f., and on the

spot quotations also vary considerably, it being possible to buy retail lots of good oil at 13s., but one holder asks 14s. 3d.

LEMON OIL (TERPENELESS).—The price of terpeneless has been advanced to 80s. to 85s. per lb., according to make. There are but few Sicilian makers, and one of them appears to be in such difficulties as not to be able to execute his contracts. This week another maker has retired from the market as it does not pay to make terpeneless oil with the natural oil at present prices. A scarcity is therefore to be expected.

MENTHOL is steady on spot with sellers at from 30s. to 31s. as to brand, and for broken lots 32s. is quoted. Arrival market has been quiet, with sellers of January-March Kobayashi and (or) Suzuki at 25s. and oil 6s. 6d. c.i.f. Some business was done towards the close of last week, with equal quantity of oil, for February-March shipment at 30s. c.i.f., but this week 31s. 3d. is quoted for January-March.

MORPHINE.—Makers continue very busy, and are unable to deliver before the end of this month; the official quotation for hydrochloride powder is 10s. 8d. per oz., with second-hands offering at slightly less.

MUSK remains quiet, with fine blue skin pile I. Tonquin pod offering at 80s. per oz., and old-fashioned pile I. at 62s. 6d. to 65s. Russian Cabardine is worth from 17s. 6d. to 18s. 6d. per oz., according to quality.

OILS (FIXED).—*Linsced* is dearer at 25s. 9d. for pipes and 26s. 3d. for barrels. *Cotton seed* is rather firmer at 27s. for ordinary crude on spot, 28s. for ordinary pale refined, and 31s. for sweet refined. *Soya* is unchanged at 27s. spot. *Coconut* is 42s. for Ceylon and 46s. to 47s. 6d. for Cochin. *Lagos Palm* oil is 1s. dearer at 32s. 9d. in Liverpool. *Rape* is steady at 30s. 6d. for ordinary brown crude and 31s. 6d. for English refined in casks. *Turpentine* closes easier at 31s. 9d. for American and 32s. for February-April.

OPIMUM.—Continues quiet, and although cabled quotations from Smyrna show an advance of 9d., buyers are indifferent, preferring to work off present stocks; 18s. 9d. c.i.f. is quoted for 11 per cent. Turkey druggists'. The spot quotation for this test is about 20s. 6d. to 21s. per lb. The *Bahristan* from Persian Gulf ports has brought arrivals aggregating over 300 cases.

A Smyrna correspondent writes on January 10 that the sales amount to 33 cases "extra" old and new Karahissar at from 19s. 9d. to 20s. 6d. as to quality. Very cold dry weather with frost in the Interior and upper districts continues, and from what we learn no snow to speak of has fallen. Holders are very reserved and tenacious in consequence. The arrivals in Smyrna amount to 2,190 cases, against 1,075 cases at same date last year. Writing again on January 17, a Smyrna correspondent states that the sales this week amount to 25 cases at 20s. 4d. for old selected Karahissar and 19s. 6d. for new. The weather continues cold and frosty, but hitherto not many complaints referring to damage to the plants have reached us. Holders, however, continue firm and tenacious. The arrivals amount to 2,214 cases, against 1,082 at same date last year. A Constantinople correspondent writes on January 25 that the sales for the week amount to ten cases druggists' at from 265 to 270 ptns., 15 cases "soft" shipping at 280 to 330 ptns., and five cases Malatias at 285 ptns. per oke. Market closes quiet and unsettled, owing to the new political crisis, which gives rise to the fear of renewed hostilities. The arrivals amount to 2,403 cases, against 1,250 cases, and the stock is 1,048 cases, against 324.

A Reuter telegram from Hong Kong of January 24 states that two Chinese dealers with an outstanding contract for 350 chests of opium have failed, and it is feared among the mercantile community that other failures are imminent.

PEPPERMINT OIL.—American tin oil is dearer, our cable quoting \$2.80, and on the spot several of the leading agents are quoting 12s., with second-hands quoting 11s. 6d. to 11s. 9d. Japanese is offering on spot at 7s. for Kobayashi and 6s. 11d. for Suzuki.

A circular issued by a New York house states that the market in the West has been gradually preparing for a marked flurry, and we think we are now on the edge of it. Almost everything in Michigan that had not been already contracted for is now being picked up by three distillers, who are paying prices fully equal to those at which we have been selling, and even higher than the prices at which

they are now jobbing. . . . The rise we are looking for may only be a short one, and we believe it will not be long, because the bulls will now have only a few months in which to push up the market before the planting of the new crop begins, by which time there will be some foundation for the usual bear stories. If weather conditions prove unfavourable and prevent putting down a very heavy acreage, then this anticipated flurry will probably be only the first step in a sustained "bull" movement, the ultimate extent of which nobody can foretell. This winter has been very mild, and if it continues so until March we shall hear all sorts of tales of wholesale destruction of roots in the ground on account of the alternate thawing and freezing of the surface.

QUICKSILVER is unchanged at 7l. 15s. per bottle from the principal importers, but seconds has sagged to 7l. 8s. 6d.

QUININE.—Following on the advance of bark at the Amsterdam auction on Thursday (January 23) the British and German makers announced an advance of 1d. per oz. The quotation for German sulphate in bulk is now 10½d. (at which business has been done), while that of *Howards* is 1s., their quotation for 1-oz. vials being 1s. 2d. *Whiffen's* price in bulk is 10½d. Other salts of quinine have been advanced proportionately, the more important (in 100-oz. tins) being as follows: *Acetate*, 1s. 6½d.; *bi-hydrochloride*, 1s. 5d.; *bisulphate*, 11½d.; *citrate*, 1s. 6½d.; *glycerophosphate*, 1s. 9½d.; *hydrobromide*, 1s. 2½d.; *hydrochloride*, 1s. 2d.; *hypophosphite*, 2s. 0½d.; *lactate*, 1s. 8d.; *phosphate*, 1s. 6½d.; *salicylate*, 1s. 2½d.; *tannate*, 9½d.; and *valerianate*, 1s. 5½d. per oz. In the second-hand market the result of the bark sale was not up to expectations, a more substantial advance in the unit having been anticipated. Immediately prior to the official advance in quinine an astute operator picked up a line of 25,000 oz. German for May delivery at 9½d., but generally the speculative market has been quiet with buyers at 10d. and sellers at 10½d. for the usual brands of sulphate. Amsterdam is also quoted at 10½d. and Java 10½d.

RHUBARB.—Retail sales of flat High-dried of fair pinky fracture have been made at 1s. 2d.

SANTONIN.—Second-hands report a quiet steady demand, with small lots offering at 98s. 6d. per lb.

SARSAPARILLA.—Eleven bales grey Jamaica and a few bales of native red have arrived.

SHELLAC is again firmer, with fair sales of TN orange on a basis of 75s. to 76s. for usual standard quality, and January-February shipment is quoted 76s. c.i.f., A.C. Garnet 74s., and G.A.L. 65s. c.i.f.; a large business has again been done in futures, including March at 75s. to 76s., May 77s. 6d. to 78s. to 77s., August 79s. 6d. to 78s.

SOY.—Seuliong brand is obtainable at 1s. 8d. per gal., no Wochan being available.

SPICES.—At auction 110 bags fair bright washed rough *Cochin Ginger* were bought in at 38s.; privately both the spot and c.i.f. prices for all *Cochin* descriptions have advanced. *Cloves* are quiet, *Zanzibar* offering at 10½d. spot, with business for January-March shipment at 9½d. c.i.f. d.w., and new-crop sellers for September-December shipment at 7½d. c.i.f. At auction 43 bags fair red *Nyasaland Capsicum* sold at 20s. *Pimento* was slow, 118 bags being bought in at 2½d. West Indian *Nutmegs* were steady, 98 packages selling. *Cinnamon* quiet, with the usual Ceylon assortment for January-February shipment offering at 1s. 1½d. c.i.f. *Pepper* slow, with sellers of fair black Singapore at 5½d. and fair white at 8½d., both spot.

STARCH-POWDER has advanced 9d. per cwt. to 11s. 9d. ex wharf.

WAX, CARNAUBA. — Sales of small lots of chalky grey have been made at 156s. 3d. per cwt.

WAX, JAPANESE.—Small sales of spot lots have been made at 46s., and for February-March 42s. 6d. c.i.f. has been paid.

WORMSEED.—A circular has been issued by the Hamburg representatives of the santonin monopoly stating that the first arrivals of the 1912 crop have been received. The prices range from 260m. to 270m. per 100 kilos. for good green quality, the lower price being for lots of at least

5,000 kilos. Attention is drawn to the fact that a drug is being offered resembling *flores cinæ*, which does not contain a trace of santonin, so that any low offers should be regarded with suspicion.

Marseilles Olive Oil Market.

Marseilles, January 25.

For about a month past our market has been passing through a period of extreme dullness, and practically no business has been done. Immediately before and after the holidays such a state was normal, but now that the year has turned this complete marasmus can only be explained by the fact that quotations are high and qualities are comparatively poor. The olive-oil season of 1912-13 will prove to be one of the most difficult for many years. On the one hand, the crop is unsatisfactory, and much below the average in quantity and quality. In fact, it approaches to a bad one in every respect, and with high prices. On the other hand, there is an astonishing lack of demand by retail buyers, and consequently a very restricted one from wholesale merchants. It is impossible to state if this situation will continue, as reports from producing countries are as varied as contradictory. From Spain and Tunis a slight upward movement is reported. The truth is that, "extra" qualities being very scarce this year, prices will be kept high for the few lots of superior oil disposable in those countries. Olive oil for industrial purposes, too, is high in price, owing to the new fact that those oils, if containing only 2 to 4 per cent. of acid, can be used for deodorising and neutralising purposes, which will absorb much of them, and justifies a firm tendency. They are at present quoted from frs.110 to frs. 125 per 100 kilos. ex warehouse, or fr.125 to fr.128 in bulk for French oil. Superior qualities are to-day quoted (per 100 kilos.), ex warehouse:

	Fr.	Fr.
Italy—Bari, Bitonto	180	190
Spain—		
Borjas, extra	160	170
" fine	150	158
Aragon	175	185
Andalusia extra	145	155
" fine	120	128
Tunis—		
Sfax extra	160	165
" surfine	155	160
Sousse extra	160	170
Mehdia	150	155
Algeria—		
Extra white	155	165
Surfine	140	150
Levant—Corfou	125	135
France—		
Bouches du Rhône	170	180
Var	165	175

Manchester Chemical-market.

January 28.

The quiet feeling in chemicals continues, and except on contract account there is not much to note. Quotations, however, remain practically unchanged for heavy alkalis. Sulphate of copper continues to decline in conjunction with the raw metal. Prompt quotations are about 24l. 2s. 6d. to 24l. 7s. 6d. per ton for best brands, delivered Manchester. Green copperas steady at 15s. per ton in bulk on rails, and 37s. 6d. to 42s. 6d. per ton f.o.b. Liverpool. Glauber salts are quoted 42s. 6d. to 45s., and Epsoms 75s. to 90s. in casks and barrels for export. White powdered arsenic quiet. Recovered sulphur tends upwards at 4l. 17s. 6d. to 5l. per ton; roll, 7l. to 7l. 7s. 6d.; and flowers, 7l. 15s. to 8l. per ton, in 3-cwt. barrels on rails. Brown acetate of lime is easier, American being quoted 7l. to 7l. 5s. per ton; grey unchanged at 13l. to 13l. 10s. per ton. In oils, lubricating is about 12s. 6d. per ton higher. Coal-tar products rather dull. Sulphate of ammonia is 14l. 3s. 9d. to 14l. 5s. per ton on rails Manchester.

Heavy Chemicals.

The conditions vary somewhat at the different centres, but, taken as a whole, things are rather quiet in the heavy-chemical industry just at the moment, and particularly as regards new business for prompt or early delivery. There are more inquiries about for somewhat further forward, especially export, and contract deliveries continue to be taken up well. The tone of the market keeps very steady with regard to prices, and this position is likely to continue.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.—A somewhat quieter feeling is prevalent in this market, and late figures have hardly been maintained. Present nearest: Beekton, 25-per-cent. ammonia guaranteed, January-April. 14l.; London terms, prompt, 13l. 13s. 9d. to 13l. 15s.; Leith, 14l. 10s. to 14l. 11s. 3d.; Liverpool, 14l. 10s. to 14l. 11s. 3d.; and Hull, 14l. 7s. 6d.

BENZOLS have dropped back again, and present naked figures now stand: 90 per cent. 10½d. and 50 per cent. 10½d.; North, 10½d. and 10d. respectively.

BIARIUM PRODUCTS.—The tone in this branch is firm, and higher values are quite likely owing to continued increase in cost of manufacture. The demand is very steady, both on contract and miscellaneous account. Blanc fixe, pure precipitated barium sulphate, in paste form, 6½. 10s. to 6½. 15s. per ton in 8 to 9 cwt. casks. Mineral sulphate of barytes, ground, in good average request at varying values from 35s. to 90s. per ton, according to quality, quantity, and package. Chloride of barium is very steady at 6½. 5s. to 7½. 5s. per ton in 8 to 10 cwt. casks. Precipitated carbonate of barium, 5½. 15s. to 6½. 5s. per ton in 2-cwt. bags, according to quantity. Crude calcined barium sulphide, 70 to 75 per cent. BaS, 5½. 10s. to 6½. per ton in 5 to 6 cwt. casks. Hydrate of barium crystals, 12½. 5s. to 13½. 5s. per ton in 6 to 7 cwt. casks. Concentrated solid, 58 to 60 per cent. Ball, 13½. 10s. to 13½. 15s. in 6 to 7 cwt. drums; and crushed, 15½. to 15½. 5s. per ton in 6 to 7 cwt. casks.

French Drug-market.

Paris, January 27.

The Continental business in crude drugs during the last three months has been very dull, owing to the political situation, as well as to high prices everywhere. There are only a few articles which, being neglected, declined to unusually low figures, but these are now beginning to advance, owing to fair demand, mostly from America.

BILBERRIES.—In spite of a larger sale for the leather industry (dyeing purposes), the price became very reasonable, as the 1912 crop was very good; fair dry berries are obtainable at 4½s. c.i.f.

JUNIPER-BERRIES.—Italy is asking the high figure of 17s. and over. We recommend the German and Hungarian qualities at 14s. and 15s. c.i.f.

ELDER-BERRIES.—Portuguese are scarce and are rarely seen. The French berries (of *ebulus*) at 35s. would do for industrial purposes.

ORANGE AND LEMON PEELS.—News from the different Italian and Spanish districts is rather variable. Lower prices are probable, and buyers would do well to wait until March before purchasing.

LEAVES.—*Wormwood* remains very scarce; small parcels of Russian and Italian are quoted 17s. to 18s.; the very aromatic French costs 30s. to 32s. *Belladonna* is already difficult to obtain, only a few parcels of genuine atropa offering from 55s. to 72s.; *teazle* is quoted at 23s., and is scarce. *Digitalis* is cheap at 28s. for high-grade German *hyssopus*, cut costs 24s., Russian *henbane* 23s., and *marsh-trefoil* 28s. *Orange-leaves* (new crop) for March shipment are low at 13s. to 14s. Of *stramonium* only small parcels at 32s. remain from the large American purchases, while *galega* is unchanged at the low figure of 35s.

FLOWERS.—*Arnica* is difficult to find, even at 54s., but of *mullein* at 11d. large quantities are offered. *Borage* and *poppy* are badly wanted, but unobtainable. *Roman chamomiles* are quoted at 72s. for firsts and 68s. for second pickings; *safflower* of fine Persian quality costs about 1s. 2d. for March shipment. *Centauray* (Algiers) is becoming scarce and dearer at 53s. *Marshmallow* is 38s., and *malva* (blue dark French) is quoted at 65s. *Violets* (Civennes) at 2s. 3d. and (Alpes) at 1s. 10d. per lb. are very cheap.

IRISH MOSS is still dear; nothing remains on the spot of last crop.

ROOTS.—*Angelica* has declined everywhere, the crop being a large one; French costs 52s. and twisted German only 54s., against 75s. last year. *Belladonna* is firmer owing to large purchases for U.S.A. High-grade is valued at 25s. to 30s. *Elcampane*, white, is offered at 35s., black at 16s. *Gentian* is scarce, and costs from 25s. to 28s. *Dandelion* is scarce, but still low because of French competition; actual price is 36s. *Burdock* may probably advance to 45s.; the present price of 38s. is therefore profitable. *Valerian* (Belgian) has risen to 30s., while the high-grade German root costs about 48s.

Telephones on 'Change.

Within a short time the Royal Exchange is to be connected by telephone with the City's network of trade and commerce. Acting on instructions from the Gresham Committee, workmen are now putting in a telephone installation, and the work is being done so thoroughly that six separate telephones, enclosed in as many compartments, will be provided. They will be placed in different parts of the ambulatory. In such a way as not to obstruct the passing to and fro of visitors or the view of the panels on the wall. In the south-eastern angle of the building a more elaborate box containing switchboard will be placed, where an operator will be in charge to facilitate trunk calls. Needless to say, the boon will be appreciated by habitués of 'Change.



Memoranda for Correspondents.

All communications must be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, otherwise they cannot be dealt with.

Queries by subscribers on dispensing, legal, and miscellaneous subjects connected with the business are replied to in these columns if they are considered to be of general interest.

Letters submitted for publication (if suitable) should be written on one side of the paper only. Their publication in "The Chemist and Druggist" does not imply Editorial agreement with the opinions expressed.

A Contradiction.

SIR,—In your issue of January 25 you quote a "letter" alleged to have been written by me to a daily contemporary. I did not write the letter, neither have I communicated at any time with the paper in question. It must be obvious that the evidence given by me before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Secret and Proprietary Medicines was on behalf of the Proprietary Articles Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, of which I was the first Chairman.

Faithfully yours,

JOHN C. UMNEY.

44 to 50 Southwark Street, London, S.E.

[Our paragraph was a reprint of a cutting from the "Daily Citizen" of January 18, Mr. Umney's name and office being appended to it; hence our statement "writes to a daily contemporary." The column in which the statement attributed to Mr. Umney appeared is headed as follows:

THOUGHTS OF LEADING CITIZENS.

DAILY COMMENTARY.

"The Daily Citizen" Office, Friday Night.

The opinions below, which will be a daily feature of this page, have been specially contributed. Each writer is free to express his views, however much they may differ from those of "The Daily Citizen."

This obviously implies contribution by those whose names are used; but now it appears from Mr. Umney's contradiction that our contemporary took advantage of the column-heading to give an extreme condensation of his evidence before the Select Committee.—EDITOR, C. & D.]

Stock Mixtures.

SIR,—"Xrayser II.," in his interesting column, alludes to some remarks of mine against the use of stock mixtures in National Insurance dispensing. I certainly, as he is good enough to suggest, had good reason for making them. I, however, fully realise the difficulty that has arisen, and therefore venture to suggest the adoption of the following plan which has been put forward. In districts where the medical men desire to use their own or special formulæ, the same should be printed and a copy supplied to each doctor and chemist on the local panels, and a copy must also be filed with the County Insurance Committee for checking purposes. This will give all that is wanted, and will be free from the objections which pharmacists have to stock mixtures.

Yours obediently,

Exeter, January 30.

P. F. ROWSELL.

[The "Provincial Hospital Pharmacopœias" contained in the C. & D. *Diaries*, 1912 and 1913, provide the formulæ of mixtures and other medicaments used in more than twenty hospitals in the most important centres. It should be an easy matter for chemists, with the aid of local doctors, to pick from these the remedies which they are in the habit of prescribing.—EDITOR, C. & D.]

Insurance Dispensing Tariff in Scotland.

SIR,—Although Medical Benefit has only been in operation a fortnight, it is long enough to show the disastrous effects it is to have upon Scottish pharmacy, unless certain modifications are made and concessions granted. As the preliminary trial is only three months, the sooner some of the weak points are declared and amendments suggested, the better chances we may have of these being given effect to. I write under conditions where a fair share of dispensing has hitherto been enjoyed, none of the medical men in the district doing their own dispensing. Moreover, the conditions are normal—i.e., medical men

continue to prescribe for insured persons in the ordinary way, making no distinction between them and private patients, while the chemists have also agreed to continue dispensing the best drugs. An analysis of the prescriptions reveals the fact that the commercial value of the ingredients of the average prescription is of such a small monetary value that the dispensing-fee is not sufficient to compensate for the time spent in dispensing it. Our professional value is rated far too low. The opposition of Scottish pharmacists was lulled by the prospect of a tariff based on a profit of 33½ per cent., and a dispensing charge over and above. This seemed fair and plausible, but many were deceived thereby. What is the total income from a 33½ per cent. profit where the value of the drug is—as in so many instances—covered by the minimum charge of one halfpenny? I could give illustration after illustration of what I mean simply by taking the prescriptions seriatim that have come in. I give two only illustrating this point:

Phenacetin.	...	...	...	gr. v.
Sodii salicylat.	...	...	...	gr. x.
M. ft. pulv. talis vj.				

Here is a *bona-fide* prescription ordered every day in the week at present, the hard thing being you have in each case the maximum amount of the drug at the minimum charge of ½d. each, and 2d. for dispensing charge. You get 3d. for your half-dozen of powders. These took eight minutes to dispense. Eight such prescriptions only could be dispensed in an hour, giving us 1s. 4d. per hour time allowance. If some would say, "Well, you may live on that!" I give another example:

Liq. arsenicalis	...	...	...	℥iij.
Aqua	...	...	...	5j.

Sig.: 5j. ter in die ex aqua. Mitte 5viij.

Price of ingredient, ½d.; dispensing charge, 2d.; total, 2½d. [+1d. for aqua.—Ep., C. & D.] Here is a patient getting a medicine to last twenty days. The chemist is dealing with a drug requiring care and skill and the observing of technicalities in law in dispensing. Here again the minimum charge prevails, and he gets his 2d. in return for what has cost him so much expenditure in money and brains to secure—viz., the right and privilege to dispense poisons.

Those cases could be multiplied *ad lib.* The average price of a 4-oz., 6-oz., or 8-oz. mixture is 4½d.; powders, 2½d. and 3d. per half-dozen, 4d. per dozen, and so on. What I suggest is concentration by the Scottish pharmacists, at least on the following points:

I.—The raising of the dispensing-fee.

It would require to be doubled all round simply to give us fair remuneration for time, as we are not going to get the return on material.

II.—The minimum charge ought to be raised from a halfpenny to a penny.

It is quite derogatory to a semi-professional calling to have most of their calculations done in halfpennies.

III.—A dispensing-fee should be insisted on wherever and whenever a prescription is dispensed.

It is a very fine line to draw between compounding and dispensing. If all items (ointments, for example) are not compounded at the moment of dispensing they are compounded all the same some time, and valuable time is spent on them. If a medical man prescribes, and we dispense, the fee should accompany the transaction.

IV.—Flat rates should be abolished.

It is bad enough to have drugs priced at lowest commercial value. It is worse to have several in at prices at which they cannot be bought. Apart from the frequency or infrequency with which they may be prescribed, the system is morally wrong, and ought to cease.

V.—All bottles should be allowed in the charge.

The penny loan is a mean thing, and not worthy the British nation. Actual practice already shows that the chemist in many cases will suffer, as people come without either bottle or pennies under conditions where you cannot refuse the medicine. Apart from that, there is a distinct loss to the chemist, who cannot now afford it, in chemically cleaning these returns.

VI.—The account is not to be paid in full—until?

All accounts should be paid like others on rendering.

I have made up a fair number of Insurance prescriptions, but the pleasure is out of the work already. I have tried hard to keep the peace among my neighbours, less optimistic than myself recently, but am less keen on the work than ever before, and if some improvement is not promised, he may have the dispensing who cares.

Yours truly,

January 23.

COUNTRY PHARMACIST (204/19).

Filing Prescriptions.

SIR,—Now that the business of a chemist and druggist has obtained "State recognition," would it not be as well if the powers-that-be interested themselves in obtaining jury-exemption for pharmacists? A certain amount of uncertainty seems to exist regarding the entering of National Health Insurance prescriptions, might I suggest that an easy and exact way of recording the third copy would be just to gum the top edge and affix them in a book of suitable size as used for newspaper-cuttings, each one in rotation one above the other, and each week separated by an inserted white slip, upon which might be recorded the gross value and the cost, if so desired?

Yours truly,

H. W. HARRIE.

300 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth.

Re Pil. Cochiae.

SIR,—“Xrayser II.” in his “Observations and Reflections,” says he has never met with pil. cochiae in bars. My small experience may not be singular, but I remember as an apprentice making “pil-a-crosher” (as it was asked for) in pipes—the length and diameter of twelve 5-grain pills. These were wrapped in paper separately and retailed at two pipes for 1½d. The formulæ contained aloes, Barb. and Soc., with jalap and colocynth—seven-tenths—aromatic oils and excipient q.s. The chemists, I presume, bit off sufficient for their requirements, which would make “pilules (?) officinales qui purgent fortem.” It always reminded me of the farmer who never required medicine. He chewed the end of a horse-ball occasionally, but then he “never wanted no doctor’s physick,” he said.

Yours very truly,

ACETUM. (216/9.)

Subscribers’ Symposium.

For questions, answers, incidents, and interchange of opinions among “C. & D.” readers.

Another Conference: Is it Needed?

Mr. H. G. Middleton (Wakefield) suggests the desirability of instituting a National Conference of Pharmacists, the first session to take place prior to April 15, to deal with the commercial aspects of pharmacy, especially as the calling is affected by the National Insurance Act. We appreciate Mr. Middleton’s motive, but at the present time the best thing that chemists can do is to stick very severely to Insurance dispensing and their own businesses generally, leaving the question of further organisation severely alone until they see how the dispensing is to work out.

Chemists’ Dental Society.

Mr. Benson Harries, 84 Commercial Road, Newport, Mon., Hon. Secretary of the Chemists’ Dental Society, writes: “I desire to make it plain that our scheme of Insurance only covers those members of our Society who have actually paid their subscriptions for the present year. This point is emphasised because this morning I heard from a chemist who has recently had an accident involving a claim against him, which would have been covered by the insurance had he remitted his subscription sooner. In order to prevent any recurrence of these circumstances, I hope all members and prospective members will communicate with me without further delay.”

Legal Queries.

Before writing about your difficulty consult “The Chemists’ and Druggists’ Diary,” 1913, pp. 211-242 and pp. 457-459, where most legal difficulties are anticipated.

Rex (215/32).—See the C. & D. Diary, p. 242 and p. 215, in regard to the company matters that you write about.

H. K. (213/64).—We cannot tell from the statement of its composition whether or not a tablet requires to be stamped

merely. Liability depends upon the use of the tablets and whether or not held out for the cure of human ailments.

Insicor (208/51) is LESSEE UNDER A LEASE which contains a covenant by the landlord "not to permit on the adjoining premises the business of a chemist and druggist or permit or suffer such business to be carried on thereon." The adjoining premises have been let as a store, and such articles as camphorated oil, castor oil, zinc ointment, lanolin, Parrish's food, cod-liver oil, saline, and Epsom salts are being sold there. What course can "Insicor" adopt? [In our opinion, "Insicor" has no remedy, since the articles sold by the adjoining tenant are reasonably incident to the business of a general store, as well as to that of a chemist and druggist. Needless to say, if the business of a store develops into substantially that of a chemist and druggist, "Insicor" is entitled to proceed against his landlord and the adjoining tenant for an injunction and damages.]

J. D. C. (206/30).—SHOPS ACT.—In the county borough of B. an order has been made fixing Wednesday as the day of the weekly half-holiday. The local pharmacies and drug-shops keep open on Wednesday afternoons for the sale of medicines and medical and surgical appliances. The drug-trade as a whole are anxious to obtain an order compelling drug-shops to close altogether on early-closing afternoons, the shop doors to be locked or bolted from the inside, but permitting the shopkeeper to serve with medical goods any person who knocks or rings. Has the local authority power to make such an order? [In our opinion the local authority has no power to embody the above provisions in a weekly half-holiday order, but with the approval of at least two-thirds of the local drug-shops, a half-holiday order may be made extending the provisions of the Act to the sale of medicines and medical and surgical appliances. If this course were adopted all drug-shops would have to close entirely on one afternoon in each week, but, of course, no customer who knocked or rang could be served [except in a case of illness declared or ascertained—Section 4 (7)], so that the objects specified by "J. D. C." would be only partially attained. This reply is based upon the Act itself and upon the circulars issued by the Home Office, as well as by a footnote to one of the forms set out in the circular of July 13, 1912, which states: "N.B. The local authority are given no power to attach conditions to an Order under Section 4 (2) in regard to the exercise by the shopkeeper of his power to change from the day fixed by the Order to the alternative day or as to any other matter."]

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We do not as a rule repeat information which has been given in this section during the past twelve months, as it occupies space which can be more profitably utilised for other information. In such cases the numbers are mentioned, and if querists cannot refer to these they may obtain the numbers from the "C. & D." Office at the published prices, usually 6d.

We do not undertake to analyse and report upon proprietary articles, and when samples are sent particulars should be supplied to us as to their origin, what they are, what they are used for and how.

W. H. H. (19/91).—BLEACHING MINERAL-WAX.—The processes are best explained in Gregorius's "Mineral Waxes," translated by Salter (Scott, Greenwood, 6s.).

W. J. (192/45).—ASSISTANT'S SALARY.—The market value of an assistant aged eighteen, just out of his apprenticeship, seems to be 30*l.* a year indoor or 75*l.* outdoor.

G. G. W. (193/3).—PEPPERMINT CORDIAL.—The essence you are using is not completely soluble, hence the slight cloudiness. The addition of a little extra spirit to the essence will increase the solubility.

Reform (192/19).—WOMEN IN PHARMACY.—The prospects of women in pharmacy are frequently made a subject of articles in the lay Press. Those who are already in pharmacy are aware of the fact that the scope offered to women is very limited.

Chemicus (185/68).—BLEACHING FEATHERS ON LIVE FOWLS.—See *C. & D.*, August 24, 1912, index folio 351, and October 5, index folio 564.

J. F. (175/61).—STARTING THE OPTICAL SIDE-LINE.—You should obtain as a first book on sight-testing and spectacle-fitting a copy of "The Chemist-Optician" (Office of *C. & D.*, 4s.), and from that you could proceed to some of the excellent text-books by Mr. Lionel Laurance, and arrange to take some practical lessons in the subject.

R. V. (200/16).—PINE INHALANT.—The following formula, registered as *C. & D. Diary*, 1912, appears to meet your requirements:

Menthol	...	...	...	...	3iv.
Creosoti	...	...	...	...	5j.
Ol. pini pumil.	...	...	...	...	5j.
Ol. eucalypti	...	...	...	...	5j.
Ol. gaultheriæ	...	...	...	...	3iv.
Ol. cajuputi	...	...	...	...	3iv.

Misce.

The next opportunity for registering formulæ will be in *The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary*, 1914.

R. S. (194/71).—IODO-GLYCEROL.—Talbot's formula for this was given in the *C. & D. Supplement*, August 24, 1912, the formula you quote is incorrect. The directions for mixing are:

Dissolve the zinc iodide in the distilled water, add the iodine, stir with a glass rod until dissolved, and, lastly, add the glycerin.

K. P. (Siam) (176/63).—BOOK ON TOXICOLOGY.—As a first book on toxicology, the detection of blood-stains, and on forensic medicine, Murrell's "Aids to Forensic Medicine and Toxicology" (Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 2s. 6d.) will be found useful.

Rad. Gent. (211/63).—(1) HAY-FEVER NEBULISING OIL.—This we believe to be one of the suprarenal glands preparations, such as the adrenalin chloride in aromatised hydrocarbon oil made by Parke, Davis & Co. (2) FRENCH PASTILLES DE MENTHE can be obtained from Wilcox, Jozeau & Co., 49 Haymarket, London, S.W. As you are probably aware, in France it is English peppermints that are asked for and supplied, often, however, as coloured lozenges, contrary to the practice in this country, which is to supply white lozenges.

Retrospect of Fifty Years Ago.

Reprinted from "The Chemist and Druggist," February 15, 1863.

Graduated Measures.

By *Barnard S. Proctor.*

It is a difficult thing to get accurately graduated measures; and a difficult thing to measure accurately with them when obtained. This is a subject to which attention has been repeatedly drawn, yet there is room for a few more remarks. Three and four ounce measures are generally graduated down to drachms and half-drachms, but these smaller graduations are rarely trustworthy, even with the better-class of measures; those which have the ounces correctly indicated frequently err to the extent of 25 per cent. in the drachms. The attraction of the liquid for the side of the measure is a source of inaccuracy in measuring; the variation thus introduced will be least when the measurement is taken from the general surface of the liquid; but measures are generally graduated for reading from the highest edge of the liquid, and if the maker and user of the measure do not compare notes on this point dissatisfaction is likely to result. Suppose a measure to have been graduated from this capillary edge of the water used, we may measure water in it with all requisite accuracy, but a fluid ounce of ether or chloroform will not reach up to the ounce graduation because of their deficiency in capillary attraction. . . . The following table shows the number of minims (not drops) of various liquids which were required to measure one fluid drachm in a 4-oz. measure, in which the drachm graduation was accurately marked, measurement being taken from the capillary edge of the liquid:

Water co.	...	...	60	Chloroform	...	...	80
Dilute acetic acid	...	...	60	Ether	...	...	77
Liq. acet. ammon.	...	...	60	Sp. ammon. co.	...	...	75
Liq. acet. conc.	...	...	65	Sp. vin. rect.	...	...	74
Liq. ammon. .880	...	...	70	Sp. æth. nitr.	...	...	72
Liq. ammon. .960	...	...	67				

In conclusion, I subjoin a table showing the extent to which we may err in our measurements when several trifling inaccuracies concur, each of which might easily be overlooked. The first column gives the quantity to be measured, the second the inaccuracy in the graduation, the third the error introduced by measuring from the general surface instead of the capillary edge, the fourth the result of the measure being held not quite vertical, and the fifth the quantity intended to be measured as increased by the sum of these errors:

	5	18	17	3j.	Total
f 3i.	...	5	18	17	3j. 40 m.
f 3j.	...	30	60	30	5j. 4.
f 3ij.	...	60	60	60	3ij. 3iij.

